

CountryLiving

JULY 2022

**SLAWS
AND SIDES!**
Prepare To Be
Asked: "Can I Get
That Recipe?"

pg. 47

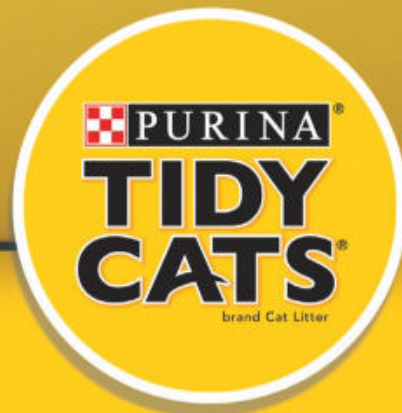
Star-Spangled Summer!

**124 Ways to Embrace That
Burger-Flipping, Lemonade-Sipping,
Sparkler-Swinging Spirit**

plus!
**New Ideas
for Vintage Finds**



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PURINA

Your Pet, Our Passion.

Welcome to July in the Country!

This issue is best enjoyed in a
rocking chair on a *back porch*
while sipping *cherry cola*.

Growing up, I was not a fan of road trips. In the days before myriad digital distractions—or, as the kids like to say, “back in the 1900s”—car rides always felt so *loooooong*, although my sister, Katie, and I did enjoy competing to see how many cows we could spot outside our respective car windows. (To this day, I still feel oddly giddy when I see a field full of cattle.)

In recent years, however, I’ve become our family’s back-road ambassador, unapologetically shuffling everyone into the car in the name of countless small-town escapes and delightful detours en route to bigger-dot destinations. We’ve sipped milkshakes at Turnage Drug Store in Water Valley, Mississippi; perused the shelves of Page and Palette, a third-generation bookstore in Fairhope, Alabama; marveled at the Big Oak in Thomasville, Georgia; and moseyed down Main Street in Columbia, Tennessee. Most of these pit stops were unplanned, and there’s a certain joy in stumbling upon something you didn’t even know you were looking for.

Speaking of pit stops, there’s a giant peach-shaped water tower off of Interstate 65 in Clanton, Alabama, and it’s always a highlight of our south-bound sojourns. In its giant spherical shadow, you will find Durbin Farms Market, whose fresh-picked produce inspired our cinnamon-spiced peach hand pies (pg. 54). That lemon-glazed goodness is my new go-to summer recipe, alongside Lela Rose’s peanut-sprinkled coleslaw (pg. 50) and her secret-ingredient (it’s root beer!) baked beans (pg. 47).



If you hit up the farmstand, don’t miss the nearby Peach Park, where you can admire portraits of peach queens past and present as you wait in line for homemade cobbler and ice cream.

This issue is not about road trips, specifically, but as you meander everywhere from Wisconsin (pg. 52) to Texas (pg. 47) to West Virginia (pg. 57) to Maine (pg. 84) through our pages, I hope you find that the assorted twists and turns serve up the same joy of discovery—look, a general store! (pg. 5)—as an impromptu back-road adventure.

Oh, and Katie, if you’re reading this, there’s only one cow in this issue (pg. 57)—and I already saw it.

Rachel

Rachel Hardage Barrett
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
@RACHELHARDAGEBARRETT

— Win a Three-Piece Rocking Chair Set! —

Find the horseshoe* hidden in this issue and enter for a chance to win the *Country Living* Legacy Rocking Chair Set by Polywood, which includes a pair of rockers and a side table (Retail value: \$595). *Not required for winning. See pg. 107 for details.

Country Living

Power in Numbers

Cherry-pick a variety of vintage soda bottle caps of the same sweet flavor for a cheerful and cohesive collection.

Rachel Hardage Barrett
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July Simple Country Pleasures

< 1

How nothing says “summer” quite like kids feasting on watermelon from the rind

< 2

Singing “Take Me Out to the Ball Game” before the seventh-inning stretch

< 3

Delightfully dated gas stations that hearken back to days of telling the attendant to “fill ‘er up”

< 4

Claiming a stool at a small-town soda fountain, such as Gruene General Store in Gruene, Texas

< 5

July 4th festivities, from patriotic parades to fireworks fanfare (See pg. 34 for more ways to celebrate.)

< 6

Braking for the neighborhood lemonade stand and seeing a little face light up when you say, “Keep the change.”

< 7

Savoring every chance to serve dinner outdoors (Check out our best backyard cookout recipes on pg. 43.)

< 8

The happy abundance that is a colander filled with freshly picked cherries

Be sure to follow us on Instagram @countrylivingmag for a daily dose of Simple Country Pleasures.

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JULY 2022

Nest.

HOMES, GARDENS
& OTHER
HAPPY HABITATS

Perfectly Imperfect
Weathered Wicker

There's something about a faded or well-worn porch perch that says, "This home has its priorities straight."

PHOTOGRAPH BY LAUREY W. GLENN.



If you've ever whiled away a rainy afternoon reclining in a rattan porch rocker—a dog sleeping at your feet, ice cubes clinking in your glass, bluebirds in full chirp—then you already know that wicker is more than an intricate weaving technique. During summer in the country, wicker is a way of life. A long beloved staple of porches, patios, and unfussy interiors, wicker furniture is refreshingly devoid of pretension. In fact, its modesty only magnifies as it gracefully wears its age—think coloring that's a bit faded by the sun, a slightly peeling coat of paint, or the occasional unraveling of a reed or two. Those so-called flaws speak to years, possibly decades, of putting alfresco furniture to its intended use: seats taken, cocktails consumed, and summer storms savored. In other words, worn-in wicker is a testament to a life as lovingly and thoughtfully crafted as the furniture itself. Each piece tells a story and warmly invites you to write the next chapter.



FIELD NOTES

Sitting Pretty on the World's Longest Porch

On Michigan's Mackinac Island, the 135-year-old Grand Hotel has perfected the art of repose.

Room to Rock

At 660 feet long and 20 feet wide, the sprawling structure has ample space to watch a July 4th fireworks display over Lake Huron.

Handcrafted Seating

There are always at least 100 white rockers at the ready. The wicker models are made by North Carolina-based Troutman Chair Co.

Soaring Ceiling

Painted Dewkiss by PPG Paints, the porch's skylike blue color is said to keep birds from nesting under the 40-foot-high overhang.

PHOTOGRAPH BY KEVIN J. MIYAZAKI/REDUX;
ILLUSTRATION BY MELINDA JOSIE.





Snowfall White
Benjamin Moore

Currently Craving
**An “Undesigned”
Coastal Kitchen**

This brand-new space was crafted to feel like it came together over decades.



1

PAINT PICKS

Colors of Nature

The secluded cabin has views of the rocky Maine coast, which informed architect Nate McBride's (mcbride-architects.com) color choices for the kitchen. Lush green on the cabinets and backsplash speaks to the surrounding landscape, while the whitewashed paneled walls convey a sense of calm.

2

CHARACTER BUILDER

Wood Accents

A wide range of wood tones coordinate—but do not match—and that's the intention. Salvaged beams outline the space and compose some paneling, while the floor consists of white oak boards. The custom island is reclaimed white oak topped with durable zinc, and Nate used vertical grain Douglas fir lumber for the other countertops.

GET THE LOOK:

"Abbott" Island \$1,799;
potterybarn.com

3

LESS IS MORE

Crisp Cabinetry

The custom face-frame cabinets have a simple, furniture-like appearance. A bronze handle accesses the hidden dishwasher, while the full inset doors and drawers each open with an understated notch.

4

BRIGHT IDEA

Vintage-Inspired Lighting

In lieu of overhead can lights, the vaulted space is lit with a single porcelain enamel pendant light and a trio of library sconces. "Mixing finishes and materials reinforces the feeling that the kitchen evolved over time," says Nate. "It's just one of the ways we avoid relentless uniformity."

GET THE LOOK:

Sinclair Spoke Top Pendant Light from \$215; barnlight.com

5

EASY ACCESS

Open Shelving

Instead of upper cabinets, reclaimed white oak shelves hang on black iron brackets. "We like our designs to feel like a room first and a kitchen second," says Nate. Below, a ledge is integrated with the windowsill, which acts as both backsplash and storage. The handy shelf keeps often-used items close at hand without cluttering the countertops.

6

ELEMENT OF SURPRISE

Painted Chairs

Vintage blue café chairs surround the antique pine farm table. The pop of color lends a fun and unexpected layer to the space.

GET THE LOOK:

Metal Stacking Chair in Petrol Blue \$299 for a pair; westelm.com





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7

COUNTRY CLASSIC

Stoneware Pottery

Made of a dense gray or buff-colored clay, American potters began churning out this utilitarian crockware in the late 1700s. It was often hand-painted with cobalt blue decoration and then salt-glazed for a glossy, durable finish.

GET THE LOOK:

Cavendish Stoneware Utensil Holder
\$25; vermontcountrystore.com

8

TRIED-AND-TRUE

Farmhouse Sink

The new cast-iron sink ("Clarion," stromliving.com) has all the hallmarks of a 1900s original: high backsplash, ridged drainboards, and a thick apron front. The wall-mount faucet (chicagofaucets.com) melds old and new: traditional lever handles plus a more modern double-jointed swing spout.



9

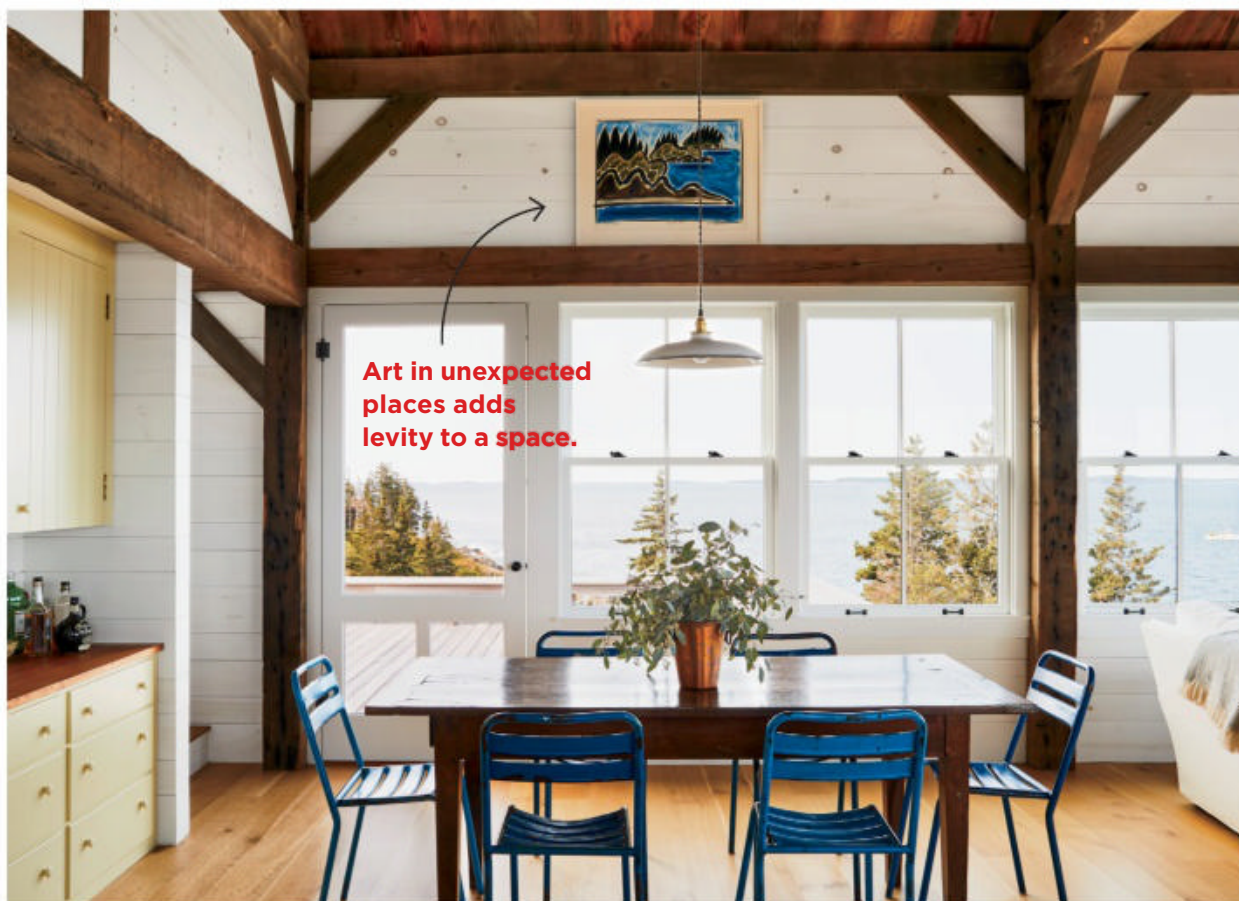
HUMBLE HELPER

Rag Rug

A popular floor covering in the early 20th century when homemakers would attach leftover fabric scraps onto a background of old sacking, the striped rag rug conveys a sense of country house ease (and provides practical softness underfoot).

GET THE LOOK:

Highland Dunes "Fales" Striped Rug
from \$40; wayfair.com



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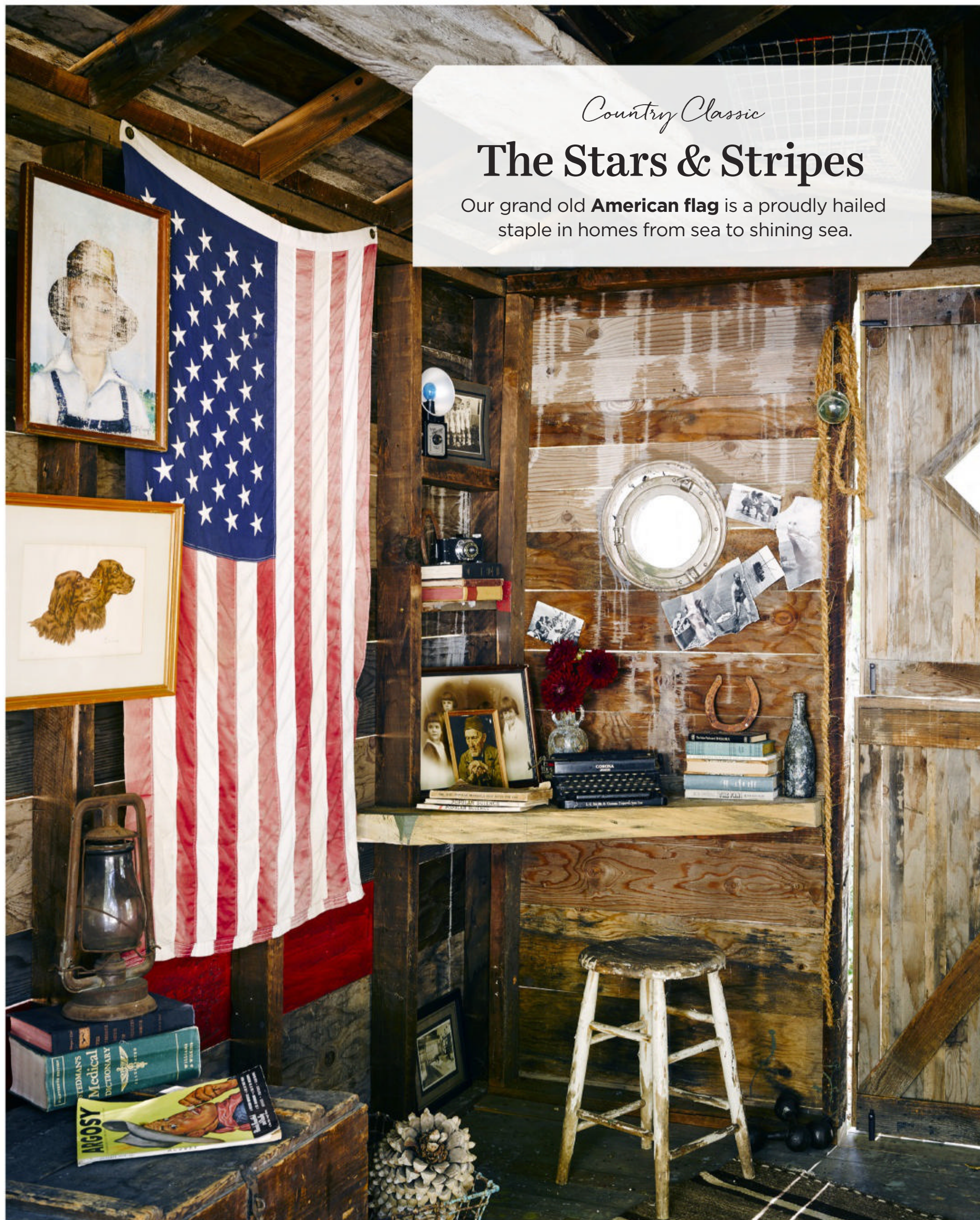


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PHOTOGRAPH BY DOUGLAS FRIEDMAN/TRUNK ARCHIVE, DESIGNER: KEN FULK.



Object Lesson

Banner Beginnings: While the earliest version of our flag first flew in 1776, the Continental Congress didn't codify it as the U.S. flag until the next year. The Flag Act of 1777 unified a young country under a banner of 13 alternating red and white stripes—one for each of the 13 colonies—and 13 stars to represent each state.

Star Student: In 1958, 17-year-old Ohioan Robert Heft spent more than 12 hours sewing his 50-star flag design for a class project. While he only received a B- for the final product, his teacher promised to raise the grade if Congress adopted his design. With the help of his congressman, Robert brought the flag before President Eisenhower, and the U.S. officially adopted it on July 4, 1960.

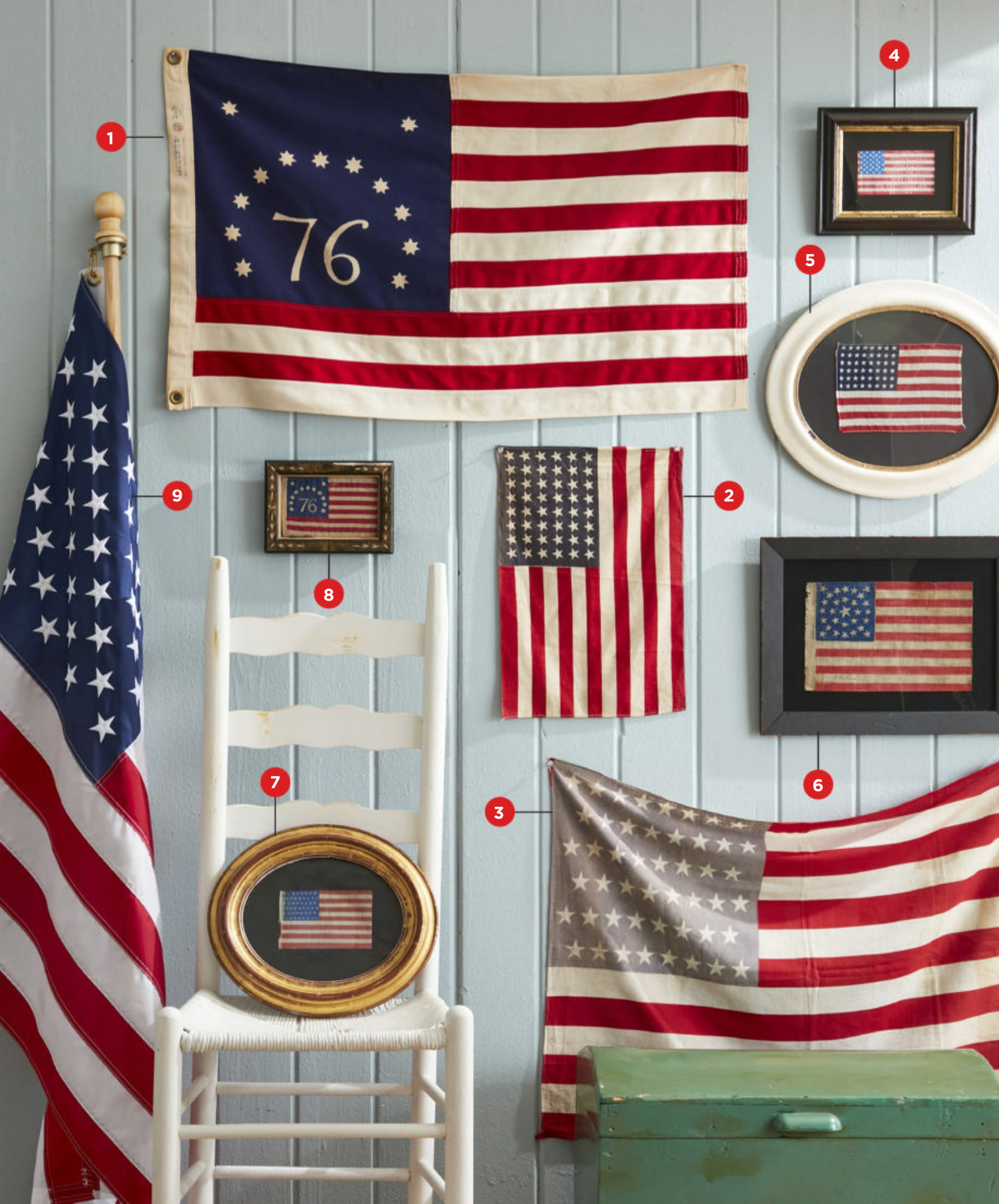
Color Code: Each hue of the red, white, and blue is said to represent an American ideal: red for valor, white for liberty, and blue for justice. Legend has it that upon seeing the flag for the first time, President George Washington said: "May it ever stand for rights and truth and love."





Far Flung: Generations of daring Americans have staked flags across (and above!) the globe. Old Glory's first grand adventure was aboard the *Columbia Rediviva* in 1787 as it became the first American ship to circumnavigate the world. In 1909, explorer Robert Peary planted a flag at the North Pole, and in 1956 a group of American scientists raised its sister flag over the South Pole. During the Apollo Program, Buzz Aldrin and 23 other astronauts placed six flags on the moon's rocky surface.

Flag Fundamentals: To treat the flag with respect, remember the U.S. Flag Code basics: It should never touch the ground; the stars should always be in the top left corner; and it should only fly at half-staff when instructed to do so by the President or governor. Tattered and faded flags should also be decommissioned with honor. Organizations across the country hold "Unserviceable Flag Ceremonies," often on Flag Day or July 4th, to give flags a dignified end. In addition, you can bring flags to the local chapter of the veteran-run American Legion (legion.org) for proper disposal.



Bring It Home

Go Old...

Collectors at every level can find flags within their price range. Unframed vintage flags (1, 2, 3) in good condition, like these from Cotton California (cottoncalifornia.com) and Compromise Lodge (compromise lodge.etsy.com), start at around \$75.

Be prepared to spend between \$225 and \$495 for framed flags (5, 7, 8) that were made in the last 100 years, while older flags (4, 6) in good condition can run from \$600 to upward of \$6,500 from trusted dealers like Jeff R. Bridgman Antiques (jeffbridgman.com). Far rarer American Revolution and other early American flags can fetch up to six figures at auction.

...or New

Opt for American-made brands when purchasing a new flag. Hand-sewn all-weather flags (9) by Allegiance Flag Supply (showallegiance.com) start at \$75. Heritage brand Annin Flagmakers (annin.com) has been making American flags for 175 years and also offers reproductions of historical styles, such as those noted below.

FIELD NOTES

Making Waves

Study up on just a few of the most notable iterations of early American flag designs.



Star-Spangled Banner

First flown over Fort McHenry in 1814 during the War of 1812, this flag, complete with 15 stars and 15 stripes, was the inspiration for our national anthem.

The Betsy Ross

Created by upholsterer Betsy Ross in 1776 at the behest of General George Washington, this design delivers a dose of old-school patriotism.



Bennington Flag

Popularized a century after its namesake battle in 1777, this flag is meant to represent the spirit of revolution.

Picture Yourself In...

A Cape Cod-Style Home

Popular with early settlers (and Monopoly game-piece developers!), this New England-y architecture exudes timeless seaside charm.

YEAR BUILT
1941



The CL Fixer-Upper Scale

↑
**MOVE-IN
READY**

↑↑
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IMPROVEMENTS**

↑↑↑
**INVEST IN A
DECENT DRILL**

↑↑↑↑
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\$299,000
Warrenton, NC
4 BR; 2 BA; 2,483 SQ. FT.

WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT: With a huge deck for grilling, space for the kids to play, *and* a firepit, the backyard is hard to beat. Inside, you'll find an equally impressive brick fireplace, custom living room built-ins, remodeled kitchen and baths, and pretty wainscoting. Plus, it's nestled in a beautiful historic district!

AGENT: Randall Robinson;
lakegaston.com

WORK REQUIRED: ↑

PHOTOGRAPH BY RICHARD HUGGINS REAL ESTATE PHOTOGRAPHY.

YEAR BUILT
1940



↖ A pretty archway connects the living and dining areas.

◀ \$275,000
Manhattan, KS
4 BR; 2.5 BA; 2,501 SQ. FT.

WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT: This spacious Cape Cod has been lovingly cared for by the same family since it was built, and it shows! Situated on three city lots, it has a large and lush backyard and even more inviting interiors. (We're in love with all of the stunning wallpapers!) P.S. Inquire about the guest cottage out back—it can be included in the sale.

AGENT: Andria Zimmerman; kscrossroads.com

WORK REQUIRED: ↗ ↗

Honestly, they had us at "exposed brick chimney!" ↘



\$499,000 ▶
Yarmouth, MA

3 BR; 2.5 BA; 3,162 SQ. FT.

WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT: As if the shingled exterior wasn't enough, the interior boasts wide-plank floors, painted woodwork, and so much more Colonial character. Bonus: It's just a short drive from the beach, and the mixed-use zoning means you can easily combine work and play.

AGENTS: Ed, Agnes, and Ned Chatelain; capecodchatelains.com

WORK REQUIRED: ↗



YEAR BUILT
1800

PHOTOGRAPHS BY WILLIAM GOLD (MANHATTAN, KS); KIM HERSEY/JEW PHOTOGRAPHY, INC. (YARMOUTH, MA).



FIELD NOTES

How the “Cape Codder” Cocktail Came To Be

In the 1940s, Massachusetts-based beverage company Ocean Spray invented a cranberry juice-and-vodka cocktail called the “Red Devil” to market its signature juice to adults. Cranberries used to make the juice were sourced from the nearby bogs of Cape Cod, and, thanks to the influence of local farmers, the drink’s name was changed to the breezier “Cape Codder” in the 1960s. To make your own, pour 1½ to 2 ounces of vodka into a glass, top with ice and cranberry juice, and serve with a lime wedge. (What better way to toast your new home?)

YEAR BUILT
1937



YEAR BUILT
1940



\$155,000 ▲
Piqua, OH

3 BR; 2 BA; 1,483 SQ. FT.

WHY YOU’LL LOVE IT: They really don’t make ’em like this anymore! Highlights include an ornate mantel in the living room, vintage cabinetry in the kitchen, and original (and recently refinished!) hardwood floors throughout.

AGENT: Patty Murphy;
pattymurphyhomes.com

WORK REQUIRED: 

◀ \$375,000
Spring City, PA

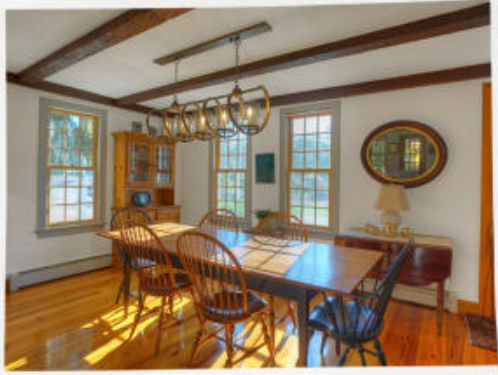
3 BR; 2 BA; 1,958 SQ. FT.

WHY YOU’LL LOVE IT: Light streams abundantly through the French doors that lead to the spacious deck. The wide front porch, scallop-framed corner built-ins, and jadeite green staircase are also guaranteed to spark joy. An added treat: Hardwood floors await underneath the carpeting.

AGENT: Gina Wherry;
remax.com

WORK REQUIRED: 

PHOTOGRAPHS BY SCOTT M KERESSI REAL ESTATE PHOTOGRAPHY (PIQUA, OH); DOUG KIRK (SPRING CITY, PA).



Check out the dining room's exposed hand-hewn beams!

\$430,000 ➤
Mystic, CT

3 BR; 2 BA; 1,376 SQ. FT.

WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT: Painted Popsicle red with interiors that are just as sweet, this gem boasts a real-life bubbling brook on the property and a backyard perfect for entertaining on long summer nights. The interior is bursting with early-American details such as wide-plank floors, 6-over-6 windows, and beautiful built-in bookcases.

AGENT: Greg Broadbent;
gregbroadbent.com

WORK REQUIRED: 



YEAR BUILT
1786

YEAR BUILT
1849



◀ **\$589,900**
Abington, MA

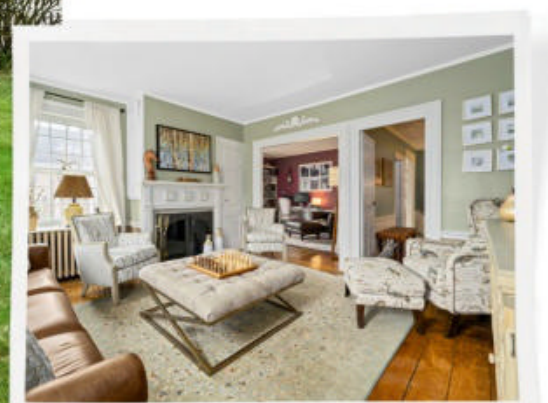
3 BR; 2 BA; 1,860 SQ. FT.

WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT: Original pine floors, two working fireplaces, ceilings with exposed beams, and tons of windows all add to the charm of this cute little Cape. A blue farmhouse kitchen and its great location near the dog park, shopping spots, and commuter rail help, too.

AGENT: Alicia Marando;
aliciamarando.c21.com

WORK REQUIRED: 

Cute nooks and crannies abound in the living room.



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Makeover Takeover

It's Better Out Back

A Birmingham, Alabama, patio and playhouse are now sitting pretty—just in time for grilling season.



“WE WANTED TO TURN AN OUTDOOR SPACE into an outdoor *room*,” says *Country Living* Editor-in-Chief Rachel Barrett of her underutilized patio that had become a bit of a catchall for kids’ toys and grilling gear. First, she installed breezy curtains in weather-resistant fabric by Sunbrella (ballarddesigns.com) to better define the seating area—and block out the intense late-afternoon sun. A console (antiquefarmhouse.com) skirted in an easy-to-clean striped Sunbrella fabric (left; ballarddesigns.com) keeps bags of charcoal and other necessities within reach of the grill but neatly hidden.

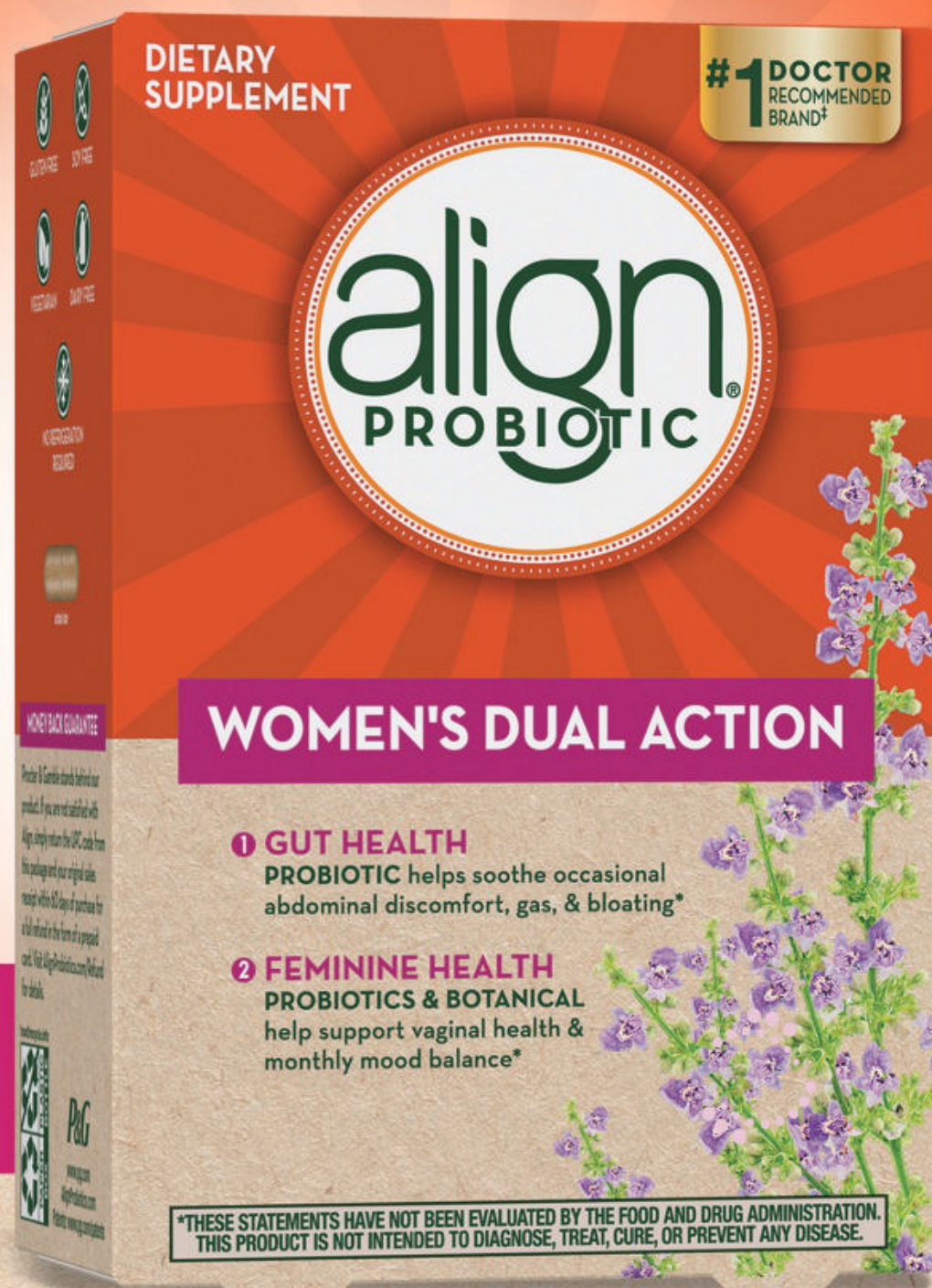
To make the rest of the backyard feel cohesive, Rachel curtained her kids’ playhouse in the same durable striped Sunbrella fabric as the sofa cushions (ballarddesigns.com), while topping a wraparound bench and Adirondack chair (countryliving.com/polywood) with equally stain-resistant—and cozy!—cushions and pillows. “I needed a material that could stand up to two kids and a very mischievous dog,” she says. Now that the “room” is realized, it’s time to focus on more pressing concerns: burgers or hot dogs?



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†Among doctors who recommended a brand of probiotic in a ProVoice 2021 survey.

JULY 2022

Hunt.

ANTIQUES & TREASURES
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In With the Old **Road Trippin'**

From souvenirs to suitcases, these tokens of cross-country travel evoke an era of interstate exploration from the back of the station wagon.

Leaders of the Pack

Between the 1940s and 1960s, long-distance travel transitioned from trains to automobiles and airplanes, and lighter handheld suitcases replaced hefty steamer trunks. Today, sought-after vintage styles include pinstripe luggage from OshKosh (center right) and Samsonite's white-trimmed "Shwayder Bros." line (pink and teal), which was named for the company founders. Multipiece sets can fetch up to \$700, while individual cases range from \$40 to \$250, depending on size and condition.





'Round Yonder

The Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956 established the U.S.'s interstate system and cemented our love of long-haul road trips. Travelers were eager to bring home mementos from new destinations, and decorative plates became a top-selling souvenir between the 1950s and 1980s. Lattice styles (center) and smaller sizes are rarer finds, but value is often set by larger diameters, condition, and rarity of destination. (Western states are more common finds, as they were popular tourist attractions for road-trippers from the East and Midwest.) Prices can reach \$25 per plate, but savvy searchers know to look for under \$5 options at estate sales.



Keyed In

Prior to the invention of electronic key cards in 1975, hotels and motels doled out room keys with an attached key fob. While high-end properties preferred weighty brass, roadside motels relied on less costly plastic pieces, which made keys hard to lose and, in a pre-Google world, served as a reminder of the property address.

Today, the key chains make for a delightfully retro desk drawer collection, with most on the market valued between \$15 and \$30 apiece. Collectors typically seek out specific colors or cities, though the rare fob from a motel made famous—or infamous—by a historic event is considered the ultimate prize.



FIELD NOTES

The Heyday of Roadside Attractions

Between the 1940s and 1960s, small towns often erected jumbo novelty architecture with the intention of luring travelers off the interstate to stimulate the local economy.

Some still stand and are well worth the detour.

Lucy the Elephant

Margate City, NJ

Built in 1881, this six-story elephant is the oldest “tourist trap” in the U.S.

World’s Largest Basket

Newark, OH

The former Longaberger HQ (above) is a seven-story replica of its market basket.

World’s Largest Ketchup Bottle

Collinsville, IL

This 170-foot-tall water tower is so beloved it has an official fan club.

The Jolly Green Giant

Blue Earth, MN

An homage to the veggie-canning region, the 55 1/2-foot statue wears a size 78 shoe.

World’s Largest Pistachio

Alamogordo, NM

Visitors to McGinn’s PistachioLand are welcomed by this 30-foot drupe.

Fueling Up

Thanks to renewed fervor for petroliana—collectible gas station memorabilia—the demand for vintage porcelain and painted metal fuel and oil signs has never been greater. Prices for the pieces shown here start at \$150 each, and, while rust adds character, mint-condition signs, particularly from now-defunct brands, bring in even larger sums. (The circa-1940s Flying A shown here is worth \$2,000!) Tip: To gauge a sign's authenticity, run a finger across the front. On hand-painted pieces from the 1950s and earlier, you will likely feel the different paint layers.



thank you!

A few generous vendors and collectors graciously loaned pieces for this story. Shop their wares on pg. 106.

Mapping Out

Starting in the 1920s, gas companies used free road maps to secure customer loyalty among new car owners. Older styles (see Missouri, Minnesota) can fetch between \$30 and \$100, while maps from the 1940s on (such as the Esso-branded maps) typically go for \$10 to \$25. The occasional piece from a short-lived company can be valued much higher, as the Blackhawk Oil Co. Iowa map (center) is worth \$450. To roughly date a find, look at automobile styles and logo iterations of any well-known brands.



Secondhandmade

Star-Spangled DIYs

Put your favorite vintage finds to (re)use for an Americana-inspired celebration.





New Excuses To Go Antiquing

Consider this your permission to stock up on all things red, white, and blue.

No 1

Soda Crate Centerpiece

Stack vintage soda crates for some height, then add an assortment of glass soda bottles. To make the pinwheels, cut two pieces of ribbon that are twice as long as the width; sew pieces together to form a square. Cut small slits from the corners toward the center. Hot-glue the alternating points to the center, top with a button, and attach to a dowel. (Tip: Use Dritz Fray Check to prevent fraying.)

No 2

Bandana Blanket

Collect nine same-size bandanas (here, 22 by 22 inches), sew together in a 3- by 3-inch grid, then secure to a piece of waterproof canvas such as Ottertext. Add a quilting knot to bandana centers to hold the layers together.

No 3

Patriotic Place Setting

Stacks of mismatched red and blue transferware plates make a colorful holiday combo. Top with striped napkins adorned with star-shaped cookie cutters tied on with twine.

No 4

Batter-Up Wreath

Celebrate America's favorite pastime by hanging a baseball-theme wreath on the front

Continued on page 36





5



6

door. Wrap a 12-inch wire frame with off-white cotton ribbon. Loop a piece of striped upholstery webbing around the frame for a hanger. Hot-glue old baseballs to the frame. Top with a simple bow.

No 5

Star Seat Swag

Shape a carpenter's ruler into a star, using hot-glue to hold the overlapping lengths together. Wrap colorful twine below each point for decoration, leaving extra at the top point to tie on a chairback.

No 6

Embellished Bucket

Transform a vintage metal vessel into a star-flecked cooler. To make, use a premade star stencil (\$3.50; hobbylobby.com)—or cut your own out of thick craft paper—white acrylic paint, and a paintbrush to add an arrangement of stars to the outside of your container.

No 7

Rustic Rosettes

Vintage grain and feed sacks create a colorful and festive focal point above a backyard buffet station (get the complete how-to instructions at countryliving.com/rosettes). Vintage “4” signs and cast-iron masonry stars add another layer of playfully repurposed decor to the setup.

Get Even More Star-Spangled Ideas!

For unlimited access to our best-ever patriotic crafts (paper sparklers!), activities (water balloon toss!), and recipes (mini star berry pies!), join *Country Living All Access* at countryliving.com/join.



Scan this code with your phone's camera to go directly to our favorite Fourth of July stories.



Appraisals

What Is It? What Is It Worth?

Our team of antiques experts weighs in on your treasured finds.

OBJECT LESSON:

TEPCO U.S.
Naval China

WHAT TO KNOW: In 1918, the Technical Porcelain and China Ware Company, or “TEPCO,” was founded by Italian immigrant John Pagliero in El Cerrito, California. What began as a two-man crew quickly expanded into a full-scale working factory by 1930, and TEPCO became a household name producing thousands of pieces of pottery by hand every day for both hospitality and residential use. Their introduction of new techniques—transfer printing, airbrush, stencils, and under-glazed decals—brought a variety of up to 50 patterns to household dinner tables. TEPCO was also amongst several restaurantware manufacturers commissioned to produce custom dinnerware for the Navy and during WWII supplied china to the U.S. Pacific fleet, where every day up to 30,000 pieces boasting nautical motifs made their way onto ships sailing from San Francisco. The TEPCO factory shut down in 1968, but collectors still crave their iconic floral and western-themed dinnerware.

WHAT IT'S WORTH:

\$25-\$500 per piece

take note...

The various motifs corresponded to officer ranks. The most common “fouled anchor” represented wardroom officers; admirals had four stars on a flag, while junior grade officers had a square knot.



“I bought this set of two chairs and a glider for \$35 at an estate sale.”

—M.H., Leeds, AL

WHAT IT IS:

Midcentury Cast-Iron Outdoor Set

Appraiser Marsha Dixey of Heritage Auctions tells us you have a nice set of a very popular style of cast-iron furniture made between the late 1940s and early 1960s. Because the pieces have so many layers of paint, it is hard to pin down a maker, but the good news, she says, is that all that paint protected against rust, and, while serious collectors prefer original paint, it probably doesn't hurt the value. “It is rare to have the love seat glider to match the chairs, so that boosts the appeal,” she adds.

WHAT IT'S WORTH:

\$350 for set

“These came from an auction in Nantucket. They seem too pretty to have been used in a bowling alley.”

—A.S., San Anselmo, CA

WHAT IT IS:

Mid-20th-Century Bowling Pins

The height and cut-edge of the base of these six cheery wooden pins indicates they were used in standard 10-pin bowling with an automatic pin setter, and the coated surface and drilled-out centers (to make them more resilient) date them post-1954. “By the 1970s, this candy stripe design would have fallen out of favor, which allows us to pinpoint these pins to the early 1960s at the latest,” appraiser Travis Landry of Bruneau & Co. Auctioneers tells *Antiques Roadshow* executive producer Marsha Bemko. “Bowling pins are one of those items that are really cool aesthetically, but do not carry the same weight in terms of monetary value. High-end collectors really like to buy them as complete sets of 10, but they still hold appeal for a great display.”

WHAT IT'S WORTH:

\$200 for group of six



did you know...

The coated bowling pin was introduced in 1954 after Henry Moore invented a liquid plastic dip to add durability.



“I purchased this wood and brass reel for \$60 at a local flea market.”

—B.B., Yorba Linda, CA

WHAT IT IS:

Late-1800s English Fishing Reel

“Fishing has been a favorite pastime for centuries and will continue to be for years to come,” says *Antiques Roadshow* appraiser Travis Landry. With that amount of time, there have been various reels, poles, and apparatuses produced and left for us to collect today, and Travis shares that your specific “Trent Otter” fishing reel is very interesting and coveted by collectors. “Its markings inform us that it was crafted by J.W. Martin & Sons of Newark-on-Trent in England during the last quarter of the 19th century, and no later than 1900. We know this timeframe because J.W. Martin moved to London in approximately 1900,” says Travis. “The ‘Trent Otter’ mark pays homage to J.W. Martin’s own lore—Yes! J.W. Martin and the infamous angler author, the ‘Trent Otter,’ are the same person. While he may not have been a well-noted fisherman of the Victorian time, his practice and advancements in the world of angle fishing still resonate with fishermen today.” This all results in a value that is higher than a vast array of antique fishing reels in the market today. (Nice catch!)

WHAT IT'S WORTH:

\$200-\$300



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"My neighbor gifted me this fun old lawn mower. How old is it?"

—C.M., Birmingham, AL

WHAT IT IS:

Early-1900s Reel
Lawn Mower

"You have a walk-behind reel lawn mower by American company Great States," says appraiser Bene Raia of Raia Auctioneers. Established in 1895, Great States still makes walk-behind manual reel mowers today, but sadly with no wooden parts, which were discontinued around 1936 when they merged with American Lawn Mower Co. "Production of this type of reel lawn mower slowed down after World War II when power mowers became the preferred choice fueled by the post-war suburban boom," says Bene.

WHAT IT'S WORTH:

\$100-\$150

Have something you're convinced is valuable? Send a photo and description to wiiw@countryliving.com for an opportunity to have it appraised.



"My husband received this truck as a Christmas gift when he was around three or four."

—V.D., Pearl River, NY

WHAT IT IS:

Circa-1950s Toy Coca-Cola Truck

"The Smith-Miller toy company was known for making famous trucks in high-quality die-cast miniature, including your husband's Coca-Cola toy truck," says appraiser Bene Raia of Raia Auctioneers. Based in Santa Monica, California, Smith-Miller (which also sometimes sold toys under the name Smitty Toys) was in business from 1945 to 1955, and the GMC yellow Coca-Cola trucks were made around 1953 or 1954, just before the company ceased production. "This particular style toy truck is

very desirable because of the play value," says Bene. "Your truck has good color and the red lettering all appears intact and legible, but the real value booster is that it looks like all the miniature Coca-Cola bottles, which are removable, are present and in their original crate containers."

WHAT IT'S WORTH:

\$1,500-\$2,500

"I found this piece in my great-grandfather's jewelry box. Was it used for baseball?"

—C.B., Marion, NC



take note...

Look for numbers engraved on the back that refer to the purity of silver. This piece is marked "833," which indicates about 83 percent.

WHAT IT IS:

Late-19th-Century Baseball Scorer

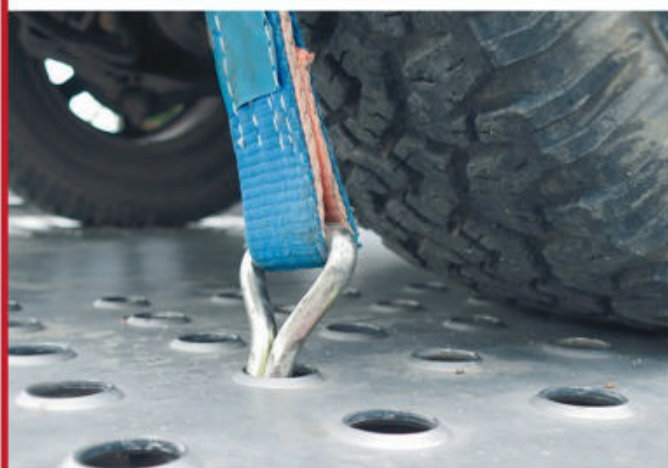
Antiques Roadshow executive producer Marsha Bemko shared your family heirloom with appraiser Wes Cowan of Hindman Auctions, who tells us: "This is an unusual late-19th-century device used to keep track of the progress of a baseball game." The sterling silver hallmark on the back of the piece helps identify that the maker was the Frank M. Whiting Company of North Attleboro, Massachusetts, and it was made between 1876 and 1896. "We can assume that this was not in the regular Whiting catalog offerings, and that the piece was possibly special-ordered as a retirement or other gift," says Wes.

WHAT IT'S WORTH:

\$400-\$600



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Known for their flavor, heirlooms are grown from seeds passed down from season to season.

PHOTOGRAPH BY VERTIKALA/STOCKSY UNITED.

Any Way You Slice It

Freshly picked or off the grill, this juicy fruit lends a savory, complex flavor to summer dishes of all sorts. Recipes, pg. 101

Charred Tomato Soup

Caprese Pasta Salad

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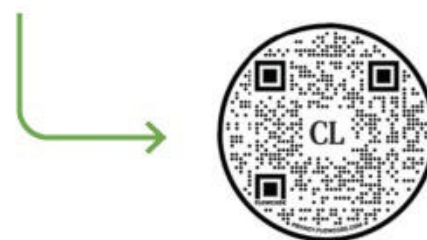
all access

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Picnics & Parties

Red, White, and 'Cue

Country Living Contributor Lela Rose pulls out all the stops—and stars and stripes—for a decidedly down-home cookout. (Root beer baked beans, anyone?)



PORTRAIT COURTESY OF LELA ROSE.

recipes by DAWN PERRY photographs by BECKY LUIGART-STAYNER
food styling by TORIE COX prop styling by ALISON ALLSOPP

“I LOVE ANY EXCUSE TO swing around a sparkler,” says designer Lela Rose (lelarose.com) of her pyrotechnic proclivities during the Fourth of July festivities on her Texas ranch. Handwritten star-shaped invites with stitched edges (below) establish the event’s relaxed spirit—a feeling reinforced with beers iced down in a wheelbarrow, neckerchief party attire, and old-school vintage finds, including a wooden ice-cream maker-turned-planter. Even classic summer sides like coleslaw and baked beans, with the addition of unexpected ingredients such as root beer and peanuts, “evoke a spirit of baseball game pastime,” says Lela. Single-serve metal sheet trays lined with gingham wax paper (pinklemonadeparty.etsy.com) make it easy for guests to pile on all the fixin’s before they take to benches softened with ruffled pillows (heathertaylorhome.com) and raise a glass of sangria to the ol’ red, white, and blue.





Stars and Stripes Celebration

LELA'S ADVICE FOR A SPARKLING FOURTH

Embrace Patriotic Patina.

"I love anything vintage Americana, like textiles and flags," says Lela. "To me, they encapsulate that feeling of old-time July 4th parades." Faded blue antiques—spatterware serving pieces, a weathered farm table—against a red barn reinforce the rustic palette.

Add Texas Twang.

Adorned with ribbon and metal stars, a longhorn supervises the scene. Lela often calls in the 'cue—smoked ribs and kielbasa—from local purveyors. Some of her favorites include Sonny Bryan's Smokehouse (sonnybryans.com), la Barbecue (labarbecue.com), and Pecan Lodge (pecanlodge.com).

Beat the Summer Heat.

"I like to keep the Texas temps at bay with a neckerchief," says Lela. Silver and turquoise scarf slides (above; richardschmidtjewelry.com) add flair. For refreshment in beverage form, Lela looks to big-batch **Firecracker Sangria** and a wheelbarrow filled with beer.

Spark Up the Table.

DIY napkin rings—simply wrap two-inch wood rings with shiny silver thread and adorn with a two-inch-long tassel—hint at fiery festivities to come.

Continued on pg. 50



Breakfast that loves you back.



→ GATHER.



Serve Standout Sides.

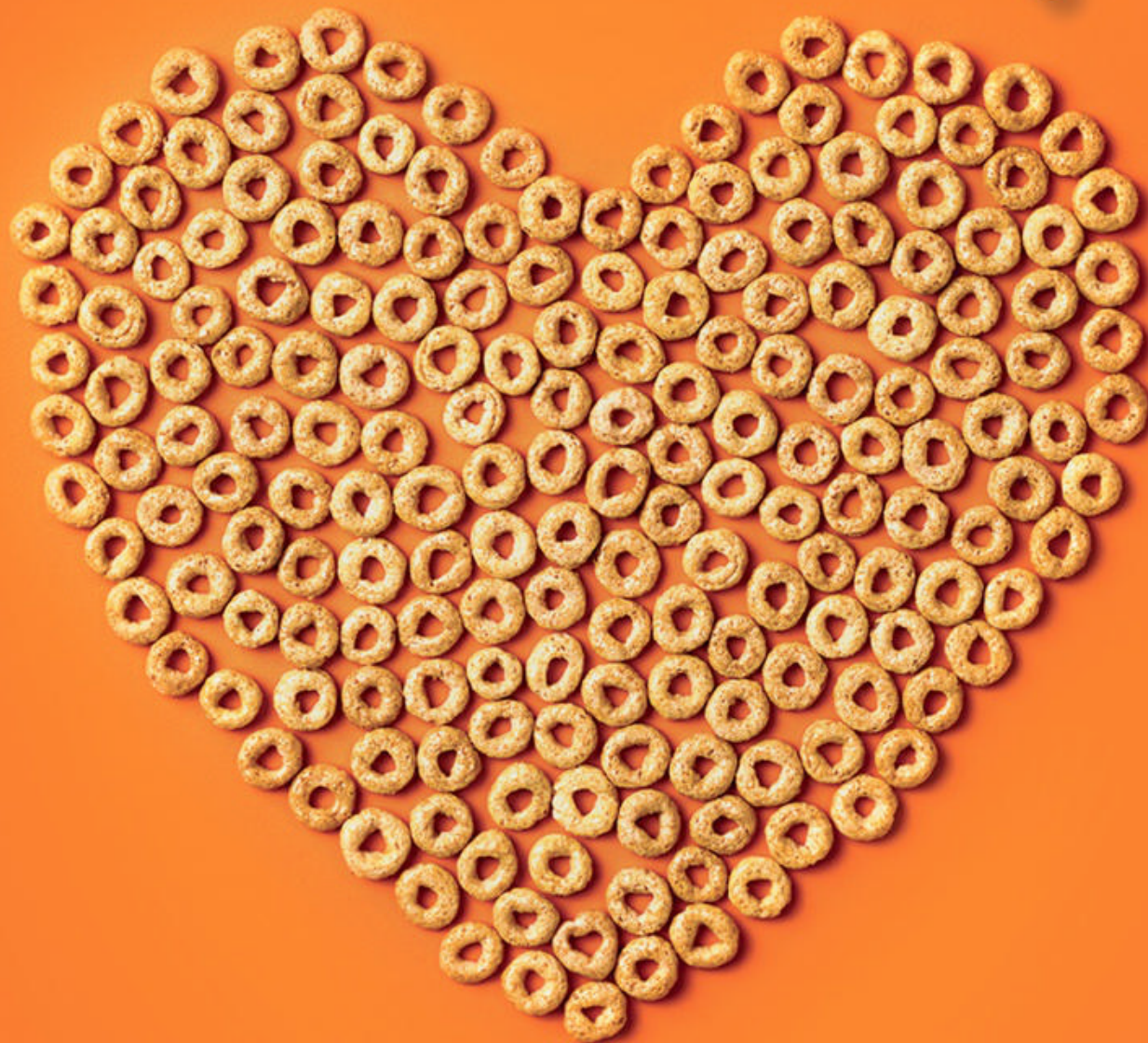
With the main dish managed, Lela focuses her energy on backyard buffet mainstays, which include summer favorites with fresh flavors. Her nonnegotiables: **Root Beer Baked Beans** and **Red Cabbage Slaw with Peanuts, Dates, and Mint**. **Puff Pastry Star Cookies** (previous page) are a sweet and festive send-off.

Celebrate Like a Kid.

Come dusk, friends gather at the sparkler station (above) to light up the night with a touch of whimsical nostalgia. Smaller “sparklettes” (topsmalibu.com) add shooting-star ambience.



Recipes, pg. 102



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Sunday Supper Camp Social

Pull up a stool at **Wisconsin's Camp Wandawega**, where steak is served in a tree house as Johnny Cash is cranked out over a crackly PA system.

The Setting: A speakeasy-turned-summer camp resort in Elkhorn, Wisconsin (campwandawega.com)

Around the Table: Owners David Hernandez (who attended camp here back in the day) and Tereasa Surratt, their 11-year-old daughter, Charlie, and a cohort of a dozen-plus creative friends from Chicago who also own nearby properties on Elkhorn Lake

Divide and Conquer: "We like to take a potluck approach to the menu with our friends who live on the lake," says Tereasa. "Several years back, one of them put together a cookbook featuring our favorite recipes." A few longtime standbys include

Red Hots & Spanish Peanuts Snack (think trail mix with a kick!), Grilled Steak with **Chimichurri**, a **Simple Locally Grown Green Salad**, and **Toffee S'mores** roasted around an 8-foot bonfire and branded with a vintage W branding iron (shop.yellowstonenationalparklodges.com for similar).

Finders Keepers: "I like to hunt flea markets for retro table toppers such as patterned linens and metal pie plates." (Repurposed here as patina-packed salad servingware; old camp postcards serve as placecards.)

Supper Soundtrack: "Camp has a perfectly vintage PA system over which we pipe a playlist of favorites, including Johnny Cash and Patsy Cline."

Tree House Tribute: "When we bought the property, my dad, Tom, hung a tree swing from the middle of an elm. He passed away around the same time the tree contracted Dutch elm disease. 'Tom's Treehouse' is built around the remaining tree trunk, and we host dinners on its lower level." (The story is documented in a children's book, *The Forever Tree*.)

Recipes, pg. 103



RECIPES BY FRIENDS OF CAMP WANDAWEGA



"I have about 40 vintage thermoses, which I'll use as vases or the caps as bowls. I love how the colors are so saturated."



Brake For...

Spiced Peach Hand Pies

Inspired by: Durbin Farms Market in Chilton County, Alabama (look for the Big Peach Water Tower!)

Local Flavor: Located in the heart of Alabama peach country, Durbin Farms is a popular pit stop for summer road trippers. About 40 varieties of peaches are on offer, including pie filling-friendly freestones. These picnic-ready pockets combine fresh peaches with warm cinnamon and a lemon-sugar glaze. *Recipe, pg. 105*



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Lost River Trading Post's
unofficial shop mascot is a
bright orange bovine
named "Cow-lamity Jane."



Life in the Country

Modern Mercantile

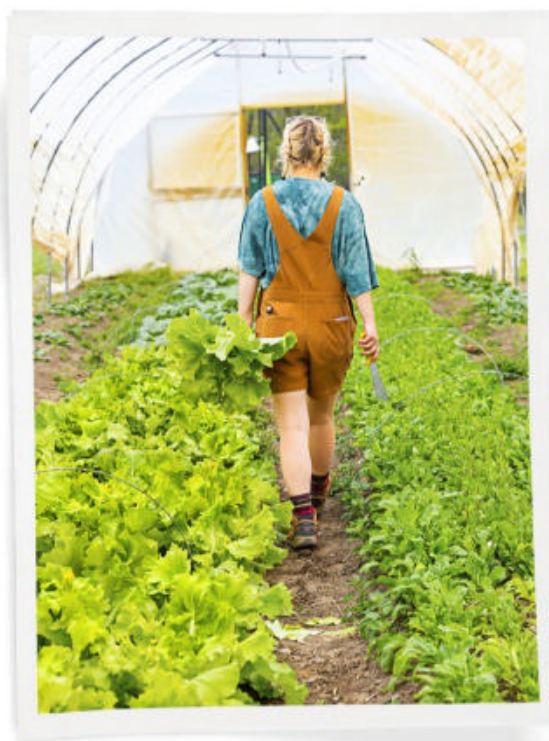
A D.C. couple decamps to West Virginia to
open a destination general store that champions
all things American-made.

Lost River sells goods from more than 300 American artisans. Shop favorites such as Boot Jack candles and Shenandoah Spice Company seasonings at lostrivertradingpost.com.

The historic Main Street storefront in Wardensville, West Virginia, had been many things over the years—a lumber mill, a feed shop, an antiques mall. To Paul Yandura and Donald Hitchcock, though, it looked like possibility. The couple, who met in Washington, D.C., had been regularly vacationing in nearby Lost River since 2008. Drawn to the verdant mountain scenery, a much-needed respite from their busy careers in politics, they moved to the area full-time in 2013 and got their real estate licenses.

As fate would have it, the Wardensville shop was their first commercial listing that year—and their first in-town purchase. After a few months of light renovations, they opened Lost River Trading Post, a 5,000-square-foot general store stocking exclusively American-made products that has since become a gathering spot for tourists and locals alike. “We also have an art gallery, coffee counter, wine bar, and, new this summer, a beer garden,” says Donald.

These days, Paul also oversees the Jonathan D. Lewis Foundation, which opened the nearby Wardensville Garden Market in 2016. At this nonprofit social enterprise, offering farm-based education and work experience to Appalachian youth, visitors can shop fresh vegetables cultivated by local high school students. “The young people here are amazing,” says Paul. “I’m excited to see how they will keep the community growing.”



ABOVE: A crew member harvests Tokyo Bekana cabbage at Wardensville Garden Market. RIGHT: A wooden barn at the market provides a patriotic photo op.





Donald (left) and Paul pose atop a 1950s Chevy they had pulled from the nearby woods and cleaned up for display. Made from old pallets, the flag art was purchased at a petting zoo auction in rural Virginia.



Town Stats

POPULATION

966 (grows closer to 3,000 come summer)

ORIGINALLY CALLED

Kalamazoo Village

CLAIM TO FAME

Built in 1909, Saugatuck's Big Pavilion was America's second-largest dance hall. Sadly, it burned down in 1960.



Small Town Saturday

Saugatuck, Michigan

Fun on the farm (fresh blueberries!) and on the water (\$2 ferry rides!) make for a delightfully old-fashioned summer getaway at this lively lakeside resort town on Michigan's Sunset Coast.



“Practice your freestyle in one of America’s largest Great Lakes...”

...and 13 more ways to dive head-first into summer.



American Spoon



The Southerner



The Fields of Michigan

Java Nice Day: Hot summer mornings call for cold-brew Caramel Snowballs from **Uncommon Coffee Roasters**.

Take to the Lakes: Saugatuck boasts plenty of ways to cool off. Wade into Lake Michigan from **Oval Beach**, frequently touted as one of the best in the country, or feel the wind in your hair with a ride down Kalamazoo River on a 1959 Bell Boy Banshee from **Retro Boat Rentals** (opposite).

Hit the Shops: Along Butler Street, **American Spoon** offers inventive pantry essentials made from Michigan-grown ingredients. One block up at **Sea Bags**, the roomy totes are sewn with upcycled boat sails (bottom left).

Have Lunch Your Way: Many Appalachians moved to Michigan in the 1950s for jobs in the auto industry. Enjoy the flavors of the migration at fried chicken joint **The Southerner**, where dishes are served on mismatched china, or plan to picnic with gourmet goodies from **Isabel’s Market + Eatery**. Feeling indulgent? Skip the main course entirely in favor of a pie flight (four for \$7) from **Crane’s Pie Pantry**.

Sip Local: At **Virtue Cider**, former Goose Island brewmaster Gregory Hall makes his peach- and cherry-infused hard apple ciders with Michigan fruit.

Step Back in Time: Historical sites include the **Kalamazoo River Lighthouse** replica (top) and the **Saugatuck Chain Ferry**. In use since 1838, it’s the last hand-crank ferry in operation in the U.S. One-way rides are just \$2!

Stay and Play: Recently re-vamped motor lodge **Lake Shore Resort** makes the most of its waterfront locale with kayaks for guests and morning yoga on the deck. Just two miles down the road, **The Dunes** is one of the largest LGBTQIA+ resorts in the country. In nearby South Haven, **The Fields of Michigan** offers upscale glamping on a working blueberry farm.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP) ALAMY STOCK PHOTO; COURTESY OF AMERICAN SPOON; COURTESY OF THE FIELDS OF MICHIGAN; RYAN DONNELL.





Creature Comforts

Talking with Dogs

When author KJ Dell'Antonia sets out to train her new pup, Zion, the teacher becomes the student.

Named after the Utah national park, Zion was a playful 12-pound, roly-poly, tumbly lump of adorable, as all puppies are. When we brought him home in May 2020, he was such a delight—in a world that was otherwise very much not—that I would have let him get away with anything. But. That adorable face, those giant paws—I swear, four of those 12 pounds were paws—were attached to what would one day become a hefty, 90-pound German Shepherd. There was no way around it: I had to train this dog. Plus, I wanted to train him. Like, all the way train him. Zion was going to be *that dog*—the one who waits patiently outside the coffee shop and is happily welcomed on any farm. Who wears a leash, but never really needs one.

Thankfully, Zion was already a pretty good pup. So when I started reading up on training, it was with one eyebrow raised. Why did I need to tell him where to lay if he was already lying down? What difference did it make which side of me he walked on? Why, if we were bumbling along together so well, did I have to take charge? Because, the books insisted, if I didn't, he would. And Zion's choices about certain things, like chasing my chickens or taking my sandwich, would definitely be different from mine.

So, I tried. The basics went great: Sit. Stay. Down. Heel. I thought we had it figured out until I leashed him up and took him into our chicken yard. My goal was to teach Zion not to chase our other pets, but he nearly yanked my shoulder out

of its socket in his pursuits. It happened again and again, leaving us both frustrated. “What part of no,” I demanded, like the dad in a sitcom, “do you not understand?” A return to the training manuals I’d questioned clued me in: “No” was not enough. I couldn’t just tell Zion what I didn’t want. I needed to tell him what I did want. That’s not a thing I do much. With four teenagers in the house and a busy writing career, I’m constantly balancing everyone else’s needs against my own.

I don’t ask for what I want, I take what I can get. This time, though, that wouldn’t be enough.

When we next visited the chicken yard, I stopped Zion at the gate. “Sit,” I commanded. “Stay.” If he wasn’t sitting, the gate did not open. Once it did, another directive: “Heel.” In we marched. Every time his attention turned to the hens clucking around him, I gave another command—and rewarded him handsomely when he obeyed.

Zion learned faster than I did, but once I understood what he needed, it was just a matter of time—and cut-up hot dogs—before he was holding a flawless down-stay in the midst of the flock. Our lesson, as it turned out, was 20 percent about him and 80 percent about me. If I wanted Zion to be *that dog*, I had to be *that girl*. The one who knows what she wants, and asks for it.

— KJ Dell'Antonia is The New York Times best-selling author of *The Chicken Sisters*. Her new book, *In Her Boots*, comes out in July.



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BETTER THAN BOTOX: Takes 10 Years Off Your Face in Just 10 Minutes

Women are raving about the life-changing effects of this powerful formula.

There's no denying that people — mostly women — are on a mission to discover the best way to eliminate fine lines and wrinkles permanently. The \$14 billion dollars spent on aesthetic procedures in 2016 alone is a clear indication of that fact.

But now science appears to be offering a simpler solution. It's a special delivery technology adapted for skincare that gets superior results.

Known as advanced liposome technology, this powerful distribution system ensures that vital nutrients are delivered exactly where your skin needs them the most, providing your skin with maximum anti-aging benefits.

New Age-Defying 'Dermal Filler' Cream in High Demand

Al Sears, MD, of Palm Beach, Florida, recently released an anti-aging cream that adapts this breakthrough medical technology into the realm of skincare, and he's struggling to keep up with consumer demand.

Dr. Sears is South Florida's leading anti-aging pioneer. He has authored over 500 reports, scientific papers, and books on anti-aging. A frequent lecturer at global anti-aging conferences, Dr. Sears spoke at the WPBF 25 Health & Wellness Festival featuring Dr. Oz, along with special guest, Suzanne Somers. Thousands of people were in attendance as Dr. Sears discussed his latest anti-aging breakthroughs.

This powerful cream, known as **Restore**, keeps selling out faster than it's produced — and people are raving about the effect it's having on their skin.

"Within a few minutes of applying the cream, it visibly plumps out the under-eye area and my cheeks as well as those annoying lines that deepen as we age between

the nose and lips. It also felt like it was tightening and smoothing my skin at the same time. I definitely feel I look younger whenever I use it," said Amy B., of Montville, New Jersey.

"The lines around my mouth and eyes are filled in and my skin is tightened. I love having younger-looking skin, so I will continue using **Restore**" raves Cathy C., of Florida.

The best part is that this cream has no adverse side effects, doesn't require a doctor's visit or prescription, and is 100% natural.

Powerful Delivery System Ensures Nutrients Penetrate Deep into Your Skin

The dermis is the underlying layer of skin that supplies nourishment and oxygen, and removes waste. In other words, it's responsible for keeping your outer layer of skin healthy. Liposome technology is designed to support and nourish this deeper layer of skin by delivering nutrients directly to it.

"All of **Restore's** powerful ingredients are encapsulated in a liposome shell — an organic container that carries the beautifying agents deep into the skin cells," explained Dr. Sears.

"Advanced liposome technology ensures that vital nutrients are delivered exactly where your skin needs them the most."

"**Restore's** liposome shell is composed of phosphatidylcholine or PC for short. While cell membranes repel water, they absorb PC because they're actually made of it. As a result, **Restore** is delivered



Revolutionary new derma-filler cream takes 10 years off your face in just 10 minutes

deep into the cell for maximum firming and volume."

When you apply liposome cream to your face, the liposomes in the skin cream work their way inside your skin, fuse with the skin cell membranes and then release their contents directly to the cells. Regular skin creams don't have this capability.

A Formula Designed to Take 10 Years off Your Face in Just 10 Minutes

Once it's penetrated the deeper layer of skin, **Restore** releases a unique blend of botanicals, vitamins and essential oils that reduces the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles, gives skin a more even tone, and moisturizes the interior layers of your dermal cells, firming and plumping your skin.

Restore's first skin-enhancing agent is Madonna lily leaf stem cell extract. It helps produce an even-toned complexion. In a clinical study reported in the Journal of Cosmetic Dermatology, participants treated with this extract for 28 days showed improvements in skin luminance and tone around the eyes.

Restore is also loaded with vitamin C, which British researchers have found reduces both wrinkles and dryness. "In **Restore** we use magnesium ascorbyl phosphate,

a more stable form of vitamin C that doesn't break down in liquid as does ordinary C," explains Dr. Sears. "That means the antioxidant molecules stay intact within your skin cells where they can prevent damage from dangerous free radicals."

This powerful formula also features guarana seed extract, coenzyme Q10, and avocado oil. Japanese researchers have also found that coenzyme Q10 supports production of the thin membrane that separates layers of your skin, and French studies have shown that avocado oil improves skin cell metabolism and enhances skin thickness.

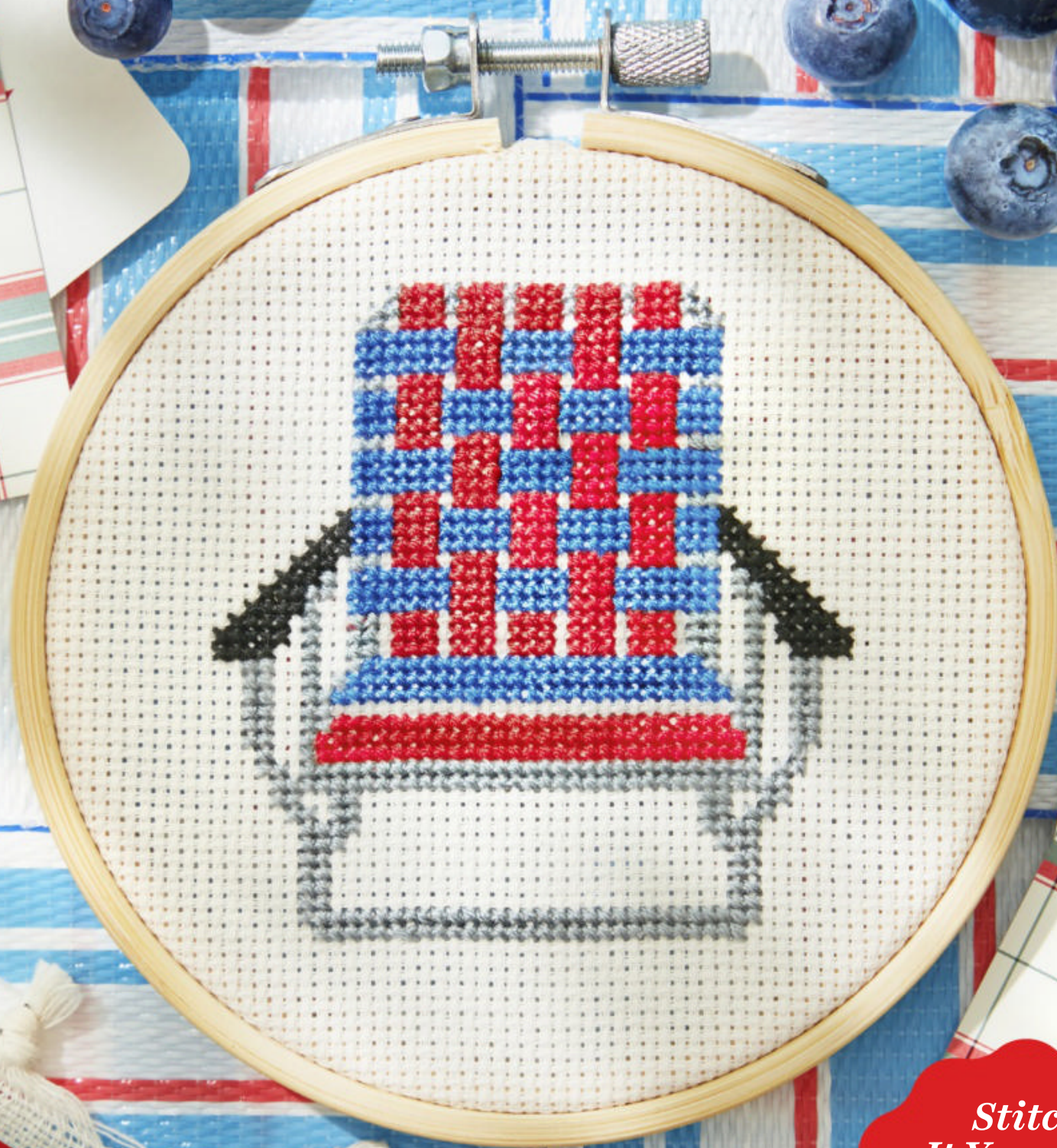
Where To Get Restore

To secure the hot, new **Restore** formula, buyers should contact the Sears Health Hotline at **1-800-682-0708 TODAY**. "It's not available in retail stores yet," says Dr. Sears. "The Hotline allows us to ship directly to the customer." Dr. Sears feels so strongly about **Restore**, all orders are backed by a 100% money-back guarantee. "Just send me back the bottle and any unused product within 90 days from purchase date, and I'll send you all your money back."

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CountryLiving

July 2022



Stitch It Yourself!

Our monthly cross-stitch patterns, dreamed up by Deputy Managing Editor Katie Bowlby, are available to download at countryliving.com/cross-stitch.



Abby and Joe Albers weren't able to salvage their home's original wood exterior, so they added new gunmetal gray siding (mittensiding.com).



On the porch of their cottage, Abby, Joe, and son Otto are a five-minute bike ride from the beach.

THE HAPPY CAMPER PLAYBOOK

A Michigan couple turns their 800-square-foot lake cabin into a nostalgia-rich retreat where vintage collections and quirks of the cottage whisper stories all their own.

written by KELLY RYAN KEGANS
photographs by MARTA XOCHILT PEREZ
styling by JENNIFER DECLEENE



GOOD FENCES MAKE GOOD NEIGHBORS, so the proverb goes. But when you live in a small town where property lines are about as defined as a lakeshore, the lack of boundaries can be a blessing. That's what Abby and Joe Albers learned when they renovated their 800-square-foot cabin in Pentwater, Michigan. "You meet a lot of people who stop by and want to chat when you're outside sawing on a Saturday afternoon," Abby says. "We've been adopted by the village grandparents, and one of our neighbors, if she sees we're in town, leaves us homemade blueberry scones on our outdoor table. It's just that kind of place."

Sage advice and colorful stories passed on by these neighbors regarding the circa-1800s lake cabin helped the couple piece together its history. "According to the rumor mill, our house was the barn/shed to these larger Victorians around it," Abby says. Joe was already familiar with the village, having spent childhood summers camping in Pentwater's Mears State Park, when the

couple began looking for a small escape within a two-hour drive of their home in Allegan. After spotting the listing 10 years ago, they jumped at the chance to make it their own. "We bought this property thinking it was only a cosmetic fixer-upper, but we ended up taking everything down to the studs," says Abby. "We evicted lots of critters from the attic and made some amazing discoveries along the way: Partly through the renovation, we found out this home is actually a barn and another structure pushed together."

Abby, who co-owns vintage home shop The Found Cottage (thefoundcottage.com), couldn't wait to outfit the rooms to feel reminiscent of summer camp. Retro collections she had set aside for years—vintage suitcases, paint-by-number art, and plaid patterns on anything and everything—are right at home in the quaint quarters.

The cabin's cozy size, with ceilings just shy of 6 feet in some spaces, appeals especially to the Albers's 5-year-old son, Otto. "He calls it the 'little house,'" Abby says. "He loves it because everything is so accessible to him, and we're always close together."



salute to...

FOUND TREASURES

The cabin's main floor is laminate ([homedepot.com](https://www.homedepot.com)) to stand up to sandy, wet feet from the beach. Abby pulled in a black plaid rug ([annieselke.com](https://www.annieselke.com)) to ground her more colorful flea market finds, including a pair of floral upholstered chairs. "They reminded me of something my grandma would have had, and I built everything else around them," she says. "I love that they don't match anything." Amateur lakeshore paintings make for a cohesive (and affordable!) collection.



salute to...

STORIED STORAGE

Abby attributes her love of all things old to her antiques-dealer grandparents. Years ago, she began picking up vintage suitcases (above) for about \$10 each. Her son Otto's toys are tucked inside some of them. "Like his mom, he's already a collector of collecting," Abby says. She stashes wool blankets inside an old pharmacy cabinet (left), which she bought from her friend who owns Warehouse 55 in Chicago. "We have some cold nights and mornings up here, so the blankets come in handy," she says. Camp canteens also reinforce the summery spirit.



White Dove
Benjamin Moore

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salute to...

PERIOD CHARM

The kitchen's metal sink and cabinet unit, likely added during the 1950s, came with the cottage, while around the corner, a seafoam-colored farm cabinet (right) Abby found in a barn adds extra counter space. To add color and "conversation," she turned to another of her favorite collections. "I love old signs," Abby says. "I'm drawn to the different fonts, but for the Pentwater cottage, I tried to stick to the campy lake cottage theme."

WHAT IS IT?
WHAT IS IT WORTH?
**Metal
“Plaid Stamps”
Signs**

The tin signs, many from the 1950s, advertised trading stamps that were popular as part of a frequent shopper loyalty program. Abby bought one sign for \$50 and the other for \$75, but she's often spotted them for as much as \$300.



“My favorite part of summer camp was arts and crafts, so I really love to collect the old paint-by-numbers art,” Abby says of the wildlife scenes above her metal bed. “It’s gotten a little out of control.”



salute to...

COLLECTED QUARTERS

The lofted bunk room (right) is just big enough to fit twin beds bookended with camp stools found at a flea market. “Eventually, I would love for Otto to take friends up to his little boys’ camp hideout,” Abby says. The original floorboards were sanded and painted. A midcentury armchair (left) gets a lake-worthy redo with cushions made from wool blankets and grain sacks. A pair of double-sided Burma-Shave wooden signs that Abby found for \$95 at a flea market hang above.



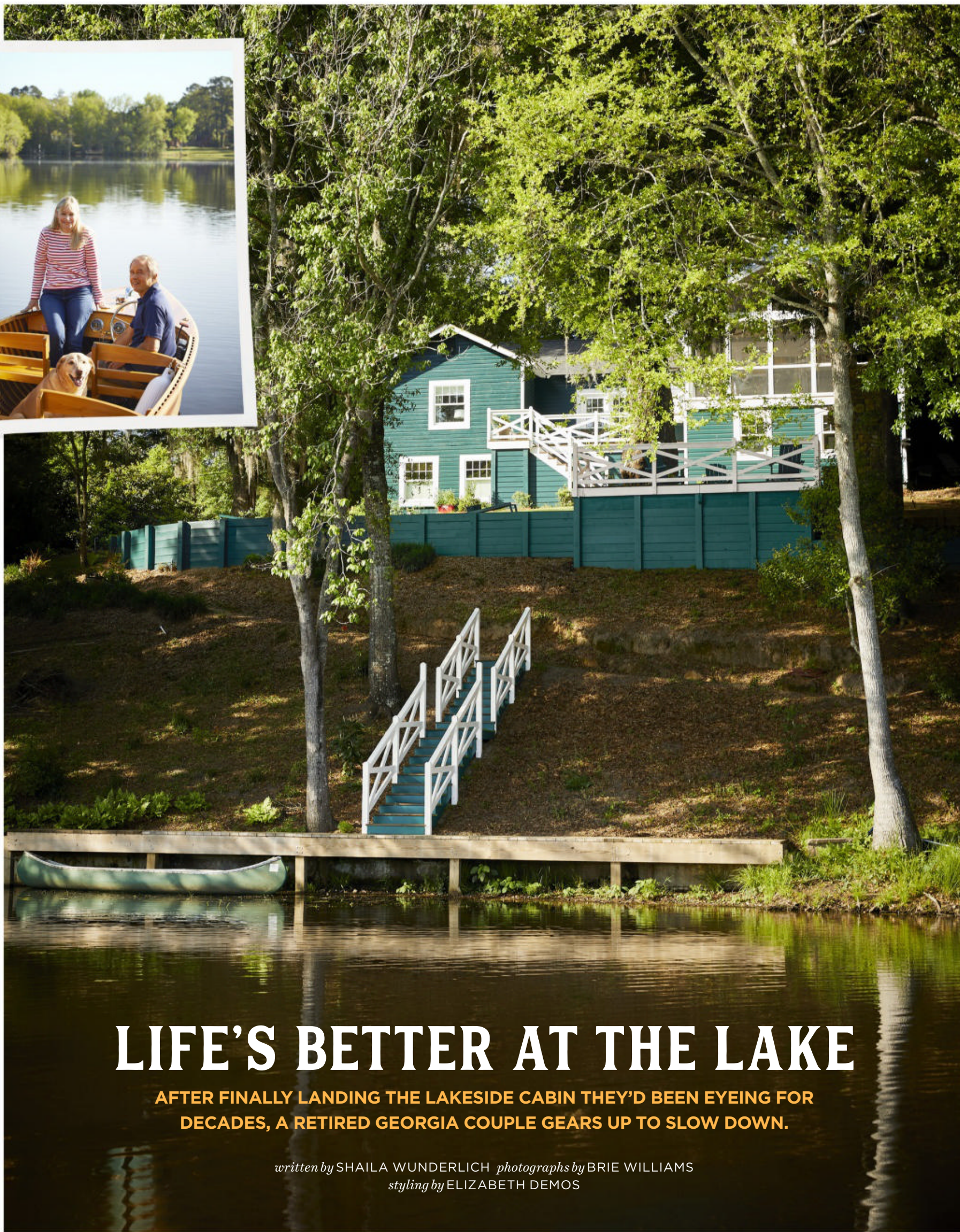
**“WE COME HERE TO UNPLUG AND GET A CHANCE
TO TALK AND CATCH UP ON THE WEEK.
IT’S TRULY A PLACE TO UNWIND AND RELAX.”**

—homeowner Abby Albers



**HOW CLEVER IS THAT?
Suitcase Table**

An old trunk and suitcase stand in for a nightstand. (Tip: Make sure your stack is at least 24 inches high for easy arm's reach.)



LIFE'S BETTER AT THE LAKE

**AFTER FINALLY LANDING THE LAKESIDE CABIN THEY'D BEEN EYEING FOR
DECADES, A RETIRED GEORGIA COUPLE GEARS UP TO SLOW DOWN.**

written by SHAILA WUNDERLICH *photographs by* BRIE WILLIAMS
styling by ELIZABETH DEMOS

it's better with...

LAID-BACK SCREEN TIME

All members of their extended family flock to the dreamy screened-in porch, one of the only new additions homeowners Kelly and Walter Gray (at left) made to their 1949 lake cabin's original footprint. For the porch swing, and all the wicker throughout the house, Kelly leaned on an old trick of painting indoor and outdoor furnishings the same shade as the house's exterior (Night Watch by Glidden). The result is a through-line that unites the indoors with the out.

Meet yellow Lab Gabbie, who loves life on—and in!—the lake.



Kelly counts old camp movies like *On Golden Pond* as major style inspirations for her choices, such as the living room's rattan chairs that have drink and magazine holders. The primitive wood desk was her first-ever antique, purchased with \$10 of her baby-sitting money when she was 16 years old.



The front entrance to the Grays' 1949 lake cabin. Its exposed roof rafter-tails were what first endeared Kelly to the house decades ago.

Walter Gray must have missed the memo on retired lake living. After 37 years of work as an engineer, building two homes, and raising three children, he and his wife, Kelly (@talkofthehouse), were poised in the spring of 2018 to downshift and downsize in middle Georgia. The lakeside cabin the couple had long coveted had finally come up for sale, setting the scene for a new era of hiking, boating, and entertaining friends, kids, and grandkids. But the 1949 structure needed work, and Walter's background and go-getter personality made it impossible to relax before the chores were complete. "Walter is a skilled woodworker who can handle any home-improvement project but prefers building canoes," says Kelly, a retired teacher. "I have the vision and handle all the painting, but prefer a

comfortable bed, good shops, desserts, and boats with motors."

The next four years on Houston Lake were a furious blur of fix-its and new additions—at least 25 projects in total. Kelly alternated between paint and heat guns as she freshened wicker furniture and attempted to remove gummy tar paper from the house's original pine-paneled walls. The project would prove too tricky to pull off, so the Grays resorted to exposing only small sections of paneling in each room and painting the rest white. A new front porch, expansive deck, and screened-in porch were the only significant changes to the footprint. Next up: a new dock and home office. Then—and only then—might Walter feel free to kick back and live the leisurely lake life. "We will slow down *some*," he says. "But there's always something to be done at a lake house."

it's better with...

A TAVERN TABLE FOR GAME NIGHT

A late-1800s English tavern table sets the relaxed tone for the sunroom, where vintage lodge-style games like Bingo and Monopoly make for functional collections.

Black-and-white family photos and artwork mingle with vintage rackets and paddles for a personal wall display. Walter's vintage *National Geographic* magazines provide a yellow punch to the room's built-in shelves.

WHAT IS IT?
WHAT IS IT WORTH?

1950 Kodak Brownie Bull's-Eye

Kelly's mom ignited her vintage camera collection 15 years ago with a \$25 yard sale haul that included this model on display in a glass jar. Mint condition versions can fetch several hundred dollars.

Though this space existed as a dining room when the Grays purchased the cabin, a hole in the ceiling (presumably for a wood stove) hinted at its kitchen origin. They promptly returned it to that purpose by adding custom-built cabinets and restoring the floors and ceilings.

HOW CLEVER IS THAT?

Tablecloth Curtains

Kelly saves a ton on textiles by sewing all her curtains out of plaid and striped tablecloths purchased from HomeGoods, Amazon, and eBay. They're lined with sheets from Walmart.



A dining room with a wooden cabinet, a canoe on the ceiling, and a wicker table with chairs. The room has a rustic, nautical theme. The cabinet is made of dark wood and has several lanterns and a cooler on top. The canoe is hanging from the ceiling, and the table is made of dark wood with a white tablecloth. The chairs are made of dark wicker with cushions. The floor is made of light wood.

it's better with...

BOAT-IN DINING

An arrangement of 1950s and '60s King-Seeley thermoses serves as a casual centerpiece on the dining room's cross-legged wood table. "I care much more about the integrity of their color than I do a few dings and dents," says Kelly. Hanging above the table is a restored 1942 Peterborough canoe the couple found on Facebook Marketplace, and—as with the thermoses, coolers, oars, and other camp accessories throughout the house, they use it regularly.

The primary bath accounted for the cabin's only real gut renovation; its new acrylic claw-foot tub pairs well with the antique post-master's stool beside it.



Indigo
Streamer
Valspar



it's better with...

A NO-WAKE ZONE

With a few clever tweaks—and new plaid linens—beds from the Grays' former home fit right in with their new cabin quarters. The guest room's bunk beds got a fresh coat of navy paint, and the main bedroom's four-poster mahogany bed was trimmed down and capped with bun feet. "I thought the tall posts were too formal here," Kelly says. Board-and-batten walls visually connect the spaces.

it's better with...

SUPPER UNDER THE STARS

The north-facing rear deck is dinner party central for two reasons: It provides the best views of Houston Lake and all its boating and fishing inhabitants, *and* its long dimensions can easily accommodate a crowd. "I can scoot together three picnic tables out there if needed," says Kelly. Walter constructed the deck in addition to clearing the landscape of a forest's worth of obstructing trees and brush.





it's better with...

S'MORE, THE MERRIER SEATING

A large stone fireplace is the centerpiece of the home's new lower deck, which encourages long conversations with its collection of Adirondack chairs (potterybarn.com)—painted by Kelly in her signature Night Watch by Glidden dark green.

The vintage Coleman cooler is one of several on the property—all originally purchased for practical purposes. “We didn’t buy these as collectibles,” Walter says. “They’re just antiques now!”

DOES IT GET MORE MAINE THAN THIS?

Nestled between a tidal pool and blueberry bushes, this shingled cottage exudes a been-around-forever, bring-on-the-sandy-feet spirit.

written by KATHRYN O'SHEA-EVANS


photographs by READ MCKENDREE

styling by KARIN LIDBECK



The home's custom navy exterior was inspired by the property's blueberry bushes. (For similar, try Blueberry by Benjamin Moore.)





RECENTLY, the internet has become slightly obsessed with a relaxed-meets-refined design aesthetic known as “Coastal Grandmother,” inspired in part by Hollywood director Nancy Meyers (*Something’s Gotta Give*, *It’s Complicated*). If Nancy were to be reincarnated as a beach house along the misty shores of Maine, the result might look something like this. “My client said she wanted her house to look like a grandma’s cottage,” says designer Katie Rosenfeld (katierosenfeldandco.com) of this shingle-style family getaway edging seagrass dunes on the Atlantic Ocean.

Of course, that “effortlessly layered over time” look is no easy task, especially if you’re creating a space from scratch. One trick: A haphazard, not-too-contrived color scheme. “I think *not* being too strict about a scheme is actually the key,” says Katie. “It comes out better when you’re not trying. I like for things to be a bit ‘off.’” Fixtures in unlacquered brass, a metal that’s been used in shipbuilding for centuries, adds to the feeling that the home has seen its fair share of Vacationland summers.

The whole house is a testament to that don’t-over-think-it approach, exuding a casual, come-what-may spirit that provides a relaxed backdrop for the couple and their three sons’ preferred summer pastimes, which include beach bonfires and family movie nights. “The home feels far removed from the daily hustle of life,” says Katie. “It is a very American, lobster rolls-on-the-Fourth kind of house.”



HOW CLEVER IS THAT?
Rug Ottoman

Katie had an oversize square-shaped ottoman upholstered with a durable vintage rug. Its flat and roomy surface easily accommodates everything from backgammon to books and beverages.



coastal cozy

PILLOWS AND MORE PILLOWS

"We had more textiles than we had places for, so we had to keep making more pillows!" says Katie. Other pretty fabric touches in the living room: the patterned curtains (pierrefrey.com), which pull together all the colors in the space, and a big bench-seat sofa. Neutral bamboo shades help balance it all. "I always try to layer woven shades underneath drapery, and the bamboo felt very beachy," says Katie.



coastal cozy
**LARDER-STYLE
CABINETRY**

Ye olde Shaker and English kitchens inspired the home's cook space, designed in partnership with Jannell Zarba of Damiana Design + Project Management (damiana.designnpm.com). "There are a lot of scullery and back of house aspects to the kitchen," says Katie, including punch-outs in the larder cabinetry, while wooden knobs nod to simple Shaker styles. The cabinetry paint color echoes the billowing seas beyond the windows.



Silver Lining
Benjamin Moore

coastal cozy
**GO-WITH-THE-FLOW
INFORMALITY**

"Throughout the whole design process, there was this conversation of where people would eat and where people would gather," says Katie. "And the answer ended up being, 'anywhere.'" Case in point: the informal dining room that—because of its proximity to the cook space—really functions more as an eat-in kitchen. Reproductions of old rush farm chairs (redfordhouse.com) with custom-made cushions add to the relaxed feel. "It's just the kind of a house where it's free and easy," says Katie. The salty ocean air courtesy of French doors also contributes to the breezy demeanor.



The new indigo block-print fabric (lisafinetextiles.com) upholstered furniture in the sitting area feels age-old.



coastal cozy
**UNAPOLOGETIC
 PATTERN PLAY**

Clockwise, from top left:
 The en-suite bathroom's painted Carrara marble tile. The primary bedroom's ruffled chaise longues look out on the sea, while the rush bed adds texture alongside blue and Nantucket red accents. In the mudroom—make that sand room—a vintage flag adds graphic punch atop wallpaper (lesindiennes.com), and porcelain floors that look like slate have the hard-wearing feel of yesteryear.



Babouche
 Farrow & Ball



coastal cozy

BASK-IN-THE-SUNSHINE BEDROOM

"This bedroom is quintessential New England—very cozy and nostalgic," says Katie, who had almost everything custom-made down to the bedskirt featuring eyelash fringe. Adding to the ambiance are buttery yellows that feel as warm as the summer sun, including a checkered blanket and painted bedside chest (Somerset Bay; modernhistoryhome.com).



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COAST TO COAST

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darringtonbluegrass.com

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ossipeevalley.com

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July 29–31
Lyons, CO

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6. Alexandrite SW 0060
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10. Stop SW 6869



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[illegible]

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• THE ALMANAC •



Ask a Country Vet

Country Living's resident veterinarian, Dr. Tricia Earley, separates fur fact from fiction.

Q.

My dog gets anxious during fireworks. How can I calm him?

—Kathy T., Brenham, TX

A.

The boom of fireworks is exciting for us but absolute Armageddon for animals. When dogs are scared, they run, making Fourth of July the most common holiday for pets to escape and get lost. Keep your pup enclosed in a familiar room indoors, play soothing music, and, just in case, make sure they have a collar with ID and a microchip. If your pet is particularly sensitive, talk to your vet about calming medication.

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sixthreezero.com

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POP OF PATTERN

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IDENTIFICATION KEY

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How a Safe Step Walk-In Tub can change your life

Remember when...

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Personal Checklist:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arthritis | <input type="checkbox"/> Dry Skin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Insomnia | <input type="checkbox"/> Anxiety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobility Issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lower Back Pain | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor Circulation |

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A Safe Step Walk-In Tub lets you indulge in a warm, relaxing bath that can help relieve life's aches, pains and worries.



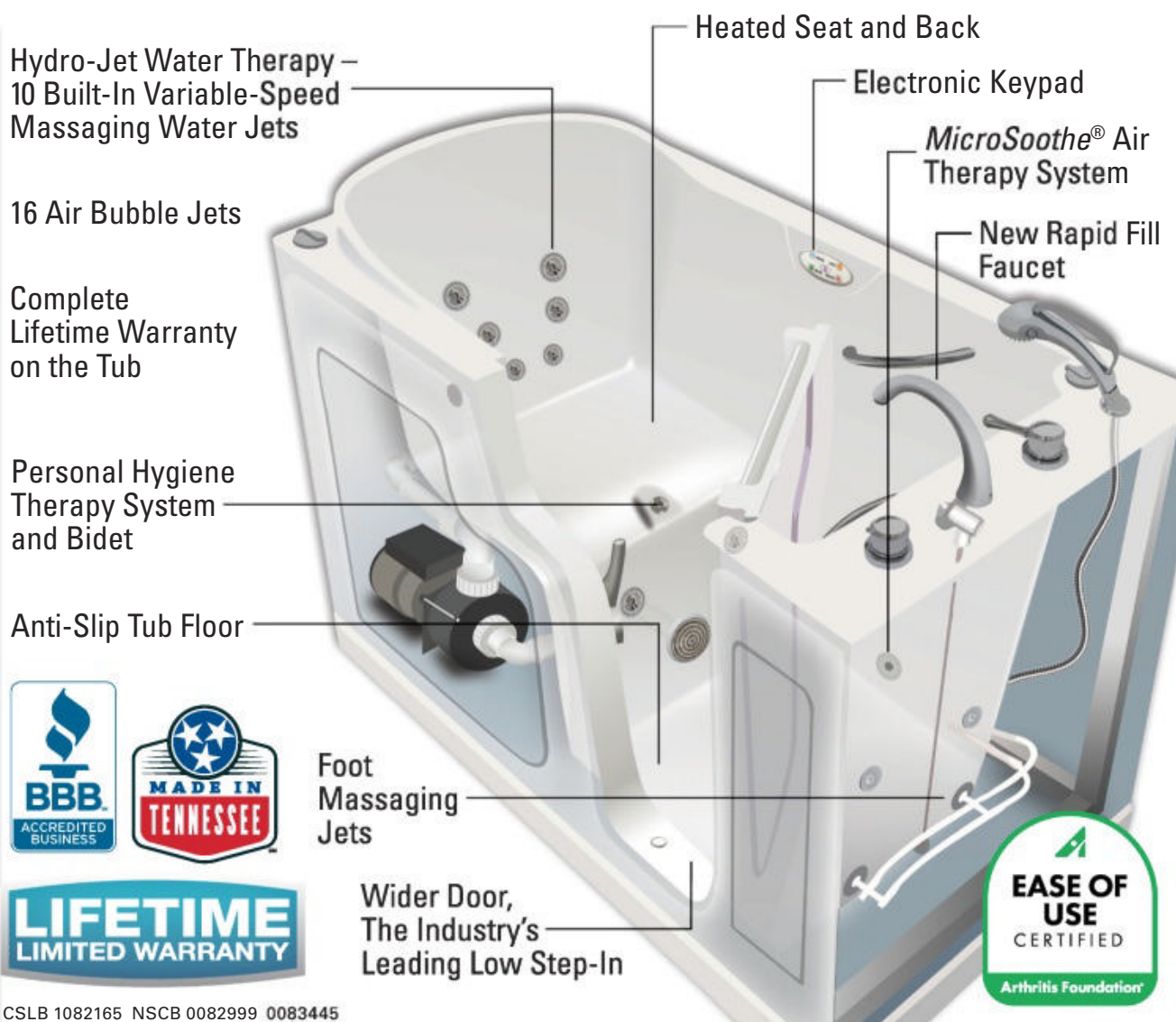
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The Almanac PRIZE RECIPES

WINNING FARE TO MAKE AND SHARE



Charred Tomato Soup

WORKING TIME 30 minutes
TOTAL TIME 1 hour 10 minutes
(including standing)
MAKES 4 to 6 servings

If tomatoes aren't at peak ripeness, adding a tablespoon of sugar in with the water will help round out the flavor. This recipe also makes great leftovers, as it tastes even better the next day.

3 pounds very ripe heirloom tomatoes, halved and cored

1 tablespoon olive oil, plus more for brushing tomatoes

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

3 large garlic cloves, chopped

1 medium yellow onion, chopped

1 cup chopped fresh cilantro, plus more for garnish

2 tablespoons red wine vinegar

Sour cream, for serving

1. Heat grill to medium-high. Brush tomatoes with oil and season with salt and pepper. Grill cut sides up, until soft and bubbly, 4 to 6 minutes; cool completely.

2. Heat oil in a Dutch oven or large pot over medium heat. Add garlic and onion. Season with salt and pepper. Cook, stirring occasionally, until soft, 8 to 10 minutes; remove from heat. Add tomatoes, cilantro, and vinegar. (Add up to 2 cups water, if necessary, until mixture is just soupy.) Puree in a blender, in batches if necessary, or use an immersion blender, until smooth, about 1 minute. Season with salt and pepper.

3. Chill at least 30 minutes and up to 2 days. Serve topped with sour cream and garnished with cilantro.



Open-Faced Tomato and Dill Toasts

WORKING TIME 5 minutes
TOTAL TIME 10 minutes
MAKES 2 servings

This simple sandwich tastes best with perfectly vine-ripened tomatoes. (See pg. 102 for tips on picking the perfect tomato.) Use a large slicing variety (about 3 to 4 inches across) such as beefsteak or Brandywine to get maximum bread coverage.

2 slices crusty bread, such as sourdough

1 clove garlic, peeled

2 tablespoons mayonnaise (such as Hellmann's)

1 large heirloom tomato, sliced

1 teaspoon chopped fresh dill

Flaky sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Rub bread with garlic. Place on a baking sheet and toast just until golden brown, 8 to 10 minutes.

2. Spread mayonnaise on toast, dividing evenly. Top with tomato and dill, dividing evenly. Season with salt and pepper.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH HELLMANN'S



KNOW-HOW

Make the Most of Leftovers

From farmers' market veggies to homegrown herbs, summer brings a bounty of produce—and you don't want any to go to waste. Enter: Rich and creamy mayonnaise (such as Hellmann's), which offers endless ways to get extra taste. Toss with pasta, vegetables, and a hint of mustard for a savory side or mix with fresh herbs and garlic for a dip or spread.

• PRIZE RECIPES •



RIPE FOR THE PICKING

Tomatoes

For the best 'maters, head to the farmers' market. (Grocery store tomatoes are often picked under-ripe and then gassed to speed ripening, which can negatively affect flavor and texture.) Choose ones that are heavy for their size, smell sweet and "earthy," feel firm (but don't squeeze too hard!), and have a smooth, uniform skin.



Caprese Pasta Salad

WORKING TIME 20 minutes
TOTAL TIME 20 minutes
MAKES 6 to 8 servings

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

- 1 pound short pasta, such as penne rigate**
- 1/2 cup white balsamic vinegar**
- 1/4 cup olive oil**

- 2 tablespoons pure honey**
- 1 pound grape or cherry tomatoes, halved**
- 8 ounces perline (pearl-size) mozzarella balls, drained, or 8 ounces fresh mozzarella, torn**
- 1/2 cup loosely packed fresh basil, torn into large pieces**

- 1.** Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil over high heat. Cook pasta according to package directions; drain.
- 2.** Meanwhile, whisk together vinegar, oil, and honey in a bowl. Season with salt and pepper. Add hot pasta, tomatoes, and mozzarella balls; toss gently to coat. Add basil and toss to combine. Serve chilled or at room temperature.



Red Cabbage Slaw with Peanuts, Dates, and Mint

WORKING TIME 20 minutes
TOTAL TIME 20 minutes
MAKES 8 servings

Slaw can be made up to one day ahead (cover and refrigerate). Add mint, dates, and peanuts just before serving.

- 1 small head red cabbage, cored and thinly sliced (about 8 cups)**
- 1 large carrot, julienned or grated on the large holes of a box grater (about 1/2 cup)**
- 1 cup fresh mint**
- 1/2 cup roasted, salted peanuts, roughly chopped**

- 1/2 cup chopped, pitted dates**
- 1/4 cup olive oil**
- 3 tablespoons fresh lemon juice**
- 1/2 teaspoon red pepper flakes**
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper**

- 1.** Toss together cabbage, carrot, mint, peanuts, dates, oil, lemon juice, and red pepper in a bowl. Season with salt and black pepper.



Root Beer Baked Beans

WORKING TIME 20 minutes
TOTAL TIME 4 hours 30 minutes
MAKES 8 servings

- 4 slices bacon, cut into 1-inch pieces**
- 1 large yellow onion, chopped**
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper**
- 1/2 cup molasses**
- 2 tablespoons whole-grain mustard**
- 1 pound dried navy beans, soaked overnight**
- 1 (12-ounce) bottle root beer**
- 2 teaspoons apple cider vinegar**

- 1.** Preheat oven to 300°F. Cook bacon in a large Dutch oven over medium heat, stirring occasionally, until mostly crisp, 5 to 7 minutes. Add onion and season with salt and pepper. Cook, stirring occasionally, until onion begins to soften, 4 to 6 minutes. Stir in molasses and mustard.
- 2.** Drain soaked beans and add to the pot, stirring to coat. Add root

beer and bring to a simmer, stirring occasionally. Add 4 cups water and season with salt and pepper. Return to a simmer, stirring occasionally. Cover and transfer to the oven. Bake until liquid is reduced by half, about 2 1/2 hours. Uncover and continue to bake until the cooking liquid is reduced and a light crust has formed on the top, 1 1/2 to 2 hours. Stir in vinegar. Let cool slightly before serving.



Puff Pastry Star Cookies

WORKING TIME 30 minutes
TOTAL TIME 45 minutes
MAKES 1 dozen

These simple “cookies” couldn’t be easier. If at any point during assembly the dough starts to feel very soft, pop it onto parchment paper-lined baking sheets and refrigerate until slightly firm but not stiff. Then proceed as directed.

All-purpose flour, for work surface

2 sheets (1 17.3-ounce package) puff pastry, thawed

1 large egg, beaten

1/4 cup jam, jelly, or fruit preserves

Sanding sugar, for sprinkling

1. Preheat oven to 400°F. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper. On a lightly floured work surface, roll each sheet of puff pastry into a 10- by 12-inch rectangle. Using a 3 1/2-inch star-shaped cookie cutter, cut out 12 stars from each sheet. Transfer to prepared baking sheets.

2. Brush the points of half the stars with egg; carefully spoon jam (about 1 teaspoon) onto the center of each star. Using a 1 3/4-inch star-shaped cookie cutter, cut out smaller star shapes from the centers of the remaining 12 larger stars. Place stars with the holes over the jam, doing your best to line up the points. Press edges gently to seal. Brush the tops with egg and sprinkle with sugar.

3. Bake, rotating halfway through, until golden brown, 10 to 12 minutes. Cool slightly before serving. Cookies can be made 2 days ahead. Store, tightly covered, at room temperature.



Firecracker Sangria

WORKING TIME 10 minutes
TOTAL TIME 10 minutes
MAKES 8 servings

2 (750-ml) bottles Vinho Verde or other dry white wine, chilled

2 cups white grape juice or apple juice, chilled

1 cup strawberries, hulled and halved (quartered if large)

1 cup raspberries

1 cup blueberries

Club soda or seltzer, chilled, for serving

1. Combine wine, juice, and fruit in a punch bowl or large pitcher. Refrigerate until ready to serve, up to 6 hours. Serve over ice with a splash of club soda.



Red Hots & Spanish Peanuts Snack

WORKING TIME 5 minutes
TOTAL TIME 5 minutes
MAKES 1 1/4 cups

1/2 cup Red Hots or Cinnamon Imperials

3/4 cup Spanish peanuts

1. Combine Red Hots and Spanish peanuts in a bowl.



Simple Locally Grown Green Salad

WORKING TIME 10 minutes
TOTAL TIME 10 minutes
MAKES 4 to 6 servings

3 tablespoons olive oil

4 tablespoons fresh lemon juice

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

4 ounces lettuce mix

12 cherry tomatoes, halved

• PRIZE RECIPES •

3 ounces Feta, crumbled
(about $\frac{2}{3}$ cup)

2 Persian cucumbers, sliced

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup Castelvetrano olives, torn

1. Whisk together oil and lemon juice in a bowl. Season with salt and pepper. Add lettuce, tomatoes, Feta, cucumbers, and olives; toss to combine. Season with salt and pepper. Adjust dressing as needed.



Chimichurri

WORKING TIME 10 minutes

TOTAL TIME 20 minutes

MAKES 4 to 6 servings ($1\frac{1}{2}$ cups)

1 shallot, chopped

1 Fresno chile or red jalapeño, chopped (optional)

3 to 4 garlic cloves, chopped

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup red wine vinegar

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup chopped fresh cilantro

$\frac{1}{4}$ cup chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley

2 tablespoons chopped fresh oregano

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup olive oil

Grilled steak, chicken, or pork chops, for serving

1. Combine shallot, chile (if using), garlic, and vinegar in a bowl. Season with salt and pepper. Let sit 10 minutes. Add cilantro, parsley, oregano, and oil; stir to combine. Season with salt. Serve with steak, chicken, or pork chops.



Toffee S'mores

WORKING TIME 20 minutes

TOTAL TIME 1 hour 35 minutes

MAKES 36 s'mores

If you don't have time to make home-made toffee chocolate, simply use a store-bought kind (such as Heath Bars).

6 tablespoons ($\frac{3}{4}$ stick) unsalted butter, plus more for baking sheet

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar

2 teaspoons light corn syrup

1 teaspoon kosher salt

$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon pure vanilla extract

10 ounces bittersweet chocolate, chopped

10 ounces milk chocolate, chopped

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup smoked almonds, roughly chopped

S'mores-size marshmallows and graham crackers

1. Line 2 rimmed baking sheets with foil; butter foil. Heat butter, sugar, corn syrup, salt, vanilla, and 1 tablespoon water in a medium saucepan over medium heat. Cook, without stirring, until dark golden brown, 10 to 12 minutes. Pour onto one prepared baking sheet; cool. Once cool, break into $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch pieces.

2. Melt chocolates in a heatproof bowl set over (but not touching) a pot of boiling water. Add almonds and toffee pieces and stir to combine. Spread into an even layer on second prepared baking sheet; cool slightly, then score into 2-inch

squares. Cool completely, then break into squares.

3. Heat grill to medium-high. Skewer a marshmallow with sticks and heat over the flame, rotating, until golden and charred, 2 to 3 minutes. Place on a graham cracker with a chocolate square; top with another graham cracker and eat immediately. Repeat with remaining ingredients.



HOME REMEDY

Getting Corn off the Cob

Keep errant kernels at bay with this easy hack.

Step 1

Hold a shucked corn cob upright on the center tube (or "funnel") of a Bundt or angel food pan.

Step 2

Using a chef's knife, remove the kernels by cutting, from top to bottom, between the kernels and the cob. The kernels will fall into the pan.

Step 3

Remove kernels and enjoy! Look for recipes using fresh corn on countryliving.com.



Ask a Country Cook

Country Living's Food & Craft Director, Charlyne Mattox, addresses your cooking quandaries.

Q.

What's the best way to dish out ice cream on a hot summer day?

-R. Woodward, Greenville, SC

A.

It just requires a little prep the day before. First, dip your scoop in luke-warm water—it'll make for a cleaner scoop—and place single servings of ice cream onto a rimmed baking sheet lined with parchment paper; wrap with plastic wrap and freeze. When you're ready to serve, transfer the baking sheet to an ice-filled cooler, then position your cooler in a shady spot. Your scoops should be good to go whenever the sweet cravings strike.



Spiced Peach Hand Pies

WORKING TIME 50 minutes
TOTAL TIME 4 hours 20 minutes
MAKES 9 servings

For the crust:

- 3 cups all-purpose flour, spooned and leveled, plus more for work surface**
- 1 1/2 teaspoons kosher salt**
- 1 tablespoon granulated sugar**
- 1 cup (2 sticks) cold unsalted butter, cut into pieces**
- 10 to 12 tablespoons ice water**

For the filling:

- 2 large peaches, peeled, pitted, and chopped**
- 1/3 cup packed light brown sugar**
- Pinch kosher salt**
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon**
- 1/8 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg**
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter**
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice**
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch**
- 1/2 teaspoon pure vanilla extract**
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten**
- 1 teaspoon granulated sugar**

For the glaze:

- 1 cup confectioners' sugar**
- Pinch kosher salt**
- 1 to 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice**

1. Make the crust: Pulse flour, salt, and sugar in a food processor until combined, 2 to 3 times. Add butter and pulse until butter is the size of almonds, 5 to 6 times. While pulsing,

drizzle in 10 tablespoons water. Squeeze a small handful of dough; if dough does not hold together or there are dry patches, add additional water, 1 tablespoon at a time. Divide dough in two. Flatten into a 5- by 6-inch rectangle. Wrap in plastic wrap and chill at least 2 hours or up to overnight.

2. Make the filling: Combine peaches, brown sugar, salt, cinnamon, and nutmeg in a bowl. Let stand 10 minutes. Melt butter in a small saucepan over medium heat. Add peach mixture and cook, stirring occasionally and breaking up peaches with a spoon, until thickened, 3 to 4 minutes. Whisk together lemon juice and cornstarch in a bowl. Add to peach mixture and cook until thickened, about 30 seconds. Stir in vanilla. Cool completely. Cover and chill at least 2 hours.

3. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. On a lightly floured work surface roll one piece of dough into a 12- by 10-inch rectangle. Trim to an 11- by 9-inch rectangle, then cut out nine 3- by 3 1/2-inch rectangles; place on prepared baking sheet. Repeat with remaining dough. Chill until firm, 30 minutes and up to 1 day.

4. Preheat oven to 400°F. Line a second baking sheet with parchment paper. Brush edges of 1 dough rectangle with egg. Spoon 1 heaping tablespoon filling into center. Place another dough rectangle on top and press edges with tines of a fork to seal; place on prepared baking sheet. Repeat with remaining dough, egg, and filling. Brush tops with beaten egg and sprinkle with sugar, dividing evenly. Cut a small X in the center of each pie. Freeze 15 minutes. Bake until golden brown, 20 to 25 minutes. Transfer to a wire rack to cool.

5. Make the glaze: Whisk together confectioners' sugar, salt, and lemon juice in a bowl (glaze should be thick but pourable.) Drizzle over pies. Let set 30 minutes before serving.

The Almanac RESOURCES

YOUR GO-TO GUIDE FOR REPLICATING
THE LOOKS IN THIS ISSUE

Country Classic

PAGE 14 Designer Ken Fulk; *kenfulk.com*. **PAGE 15 TOP** Sea Roost; *searoost.com*. **BOTTOM Designers** Erin & Ben Napier; *erinandben.co*. **PAGE 16 Designer** Max Humphrey; *maxhumphrey.com*.

Makeover Takeover

PAGES 22-23 Curtain hardware; *highlandforge.com*. **Fabrication** Sassy Slipcovers & Decorating; *sassyslipcovers.com*. **PAGE 22** “Indoor/Outdoor Sheer Panel” **curtain panels** in Sunbrella White, Suzanne Kasler “Orleans” **coffee table**, “Ceylon Teak” **sofa**, Sunbrella “Canopy Stripe” in Cornflower/White **sofa cushions**, Sunbrella “Floral Cornflower” **patterned pillow fabric**, Sunbrella “Dade Blue” **striped pillow fabric**, and Sunbrella “Dade Blue” **grill station skirt fabric**; *ballarddesigns.com*. “Zinc Top Rolling Potting Table” **grill station**; *antiquefarmhouse.com*. **Coasters**; *propertableco.com*. **PAGE 23 PLAYHOUSE** Sunbrella “Direction Dew” **floor pillow fabric**; *sunbrella.com*. Sunbrella “Canvas” in Cornflower **bench cushion fabric**, Sunbrella “Dade Blue” **striped pillow fabric**, Sunbrella “Floral Cornflower” **patterned pillow fabric**, Sunbrella “Canopy Stripe” in Cornflower/White **curtain panels**, and Sunbrella “Canvas” in Cornflower **bean bag fabric**; *ballarddesigns.com*. *Country Living* collection **Adirondack chair**; *countryliving.com/polywood*. Chairish x The Muddy Dog **cornhole boards**; *chairish.com*.

In With the Old

PAGE 25 Vacancy sign: Lloyds Treasures, *lloydstreasures.etsy.com*. **Luggage:** The Green Scene Antiques, *thegreensceneantiques.com*; Hunt and Found Vintage, *huntandfound.etsy.com*; 40 Cottage Street, *40cottage*

street.etsy.com; Merker Ferker, *merkerferker.etsy.com*; Our Retro Reflections, *ourretroreflections.etsy.com*. **PAGES 26-27 State souvenir plates:** Daniel Barrett Mathis, *instagram.com/notaminimalist*. **Motel keychains:** Mississippi Picker, *ebay.com/str/colreb1*. **PAGES 28-29 Gas station signs:** Eagle’s Eye Finds, *eagleseyefinds.com*; Rudy Le Coadic, *instagram.com/gasandoilsigns*; Advertising Collector, Inc., *advertisingcollector.etsy.com*; The Curious Desk, *thecuriousdesk.etsy.com*; Picking 2 Repurpose, *picking2repurpose.etsy.com*; Once Always Petro, *oncealwayspetro.com*; Eileen Apperson. **Road maps:** Eagle’s Eye Finds, *eagleseyefinds.com*; Zingo Finds, *zingofinds.etsy.com*; Who Keeps This Stuff, *whokeepsthisstuff.etsy.com*; Vintage Berd, *vintageberd.etsy.com*; Vintage Squalor, *vintagesqualor.etsy.com*; Advertising Collector, Inc., *advertisingcollector.etsy.com*; Three 20 Sycamore Lane, *three20sycamorelane.etsy.com*; Brown Street Vintage, *brownstreetvintage.etsy.com*; Leaping Lemming, *leapinglemming.etsy.com*; BMan Vintage Shirts, *bmanvintageshirts.etsy.com*; Outsider Art Jewelry, *outsiderartjewelry.etsy.com*.

What is it? What is it Worth?

PAGE 38 Vintage TEPCO dinnerware: Replacements, Ltd.; *replacements.com*.

Picnics & Parties

PAGE 47 Squiggle bowl; *ci-daughters.com*. Cafeteria Tray; *cambro.com*. **Bread basket;** *housesandparties.com*. Oval **platter;** *goldenrabbit.com*. Swirl **glassware;** *shophammnett.com*. Cocktail **napkins;** *ateliersaucier.la*. Bistro **flatware;** *sabre.fr*. “Dorchester” **bench;** *ballarddesigns.com*.

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PAGE 48 “Indian Flower” and “Mimosa Vine” **fabric;** *carolinairvingtextiles.com*. Revere **bowl;** *simonpearce.com*. Love Knot **bandana;** *lastchancetextiles.com*. Shauna **bandana;** *blockshop textiles.com*. **Dessert stand;** *mosserglass.com*.

The Happy Camper Playbook

PAGES 66-67 Woven tray, throw, grid pillows, and bowl; *jaysonhome.com*. **PAGE 68 Vintage rug and towel;** *jaysonhome.com*. **Curtain fabric;** *spoonflower.com*. **PAGES 72-73 Solid pillows;** *jaysonhome.com*. Red **pillow fabric;** *spoonflower.com*.

Everyday Heirlooms

PAGE 108 Have a sentimental item you’d like to share? Send your story, along with a snapshot of the item, to *countryliving@hearst.com* for consideration.

RULES FROM PAGE 1 NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN. Find the Horseshoe Sweepstakes July 2022. Sponsored by Hearst Communications, Inc. Beginning June 16, 2022, at 12:01 AM (ET) through July 13, 2022, at 11:59 PM (ET), go to sweepstakes.countryliving.com on a computer or wireless device and complete the entry form pursuant to the on-screen instructions. Optional: Entry may include the page number where the hidden horseshoe appears in the July 2022 issue of *Country Living*, available via subscription as early as June 16, 2022, and at newsstands approximately June 21, 2022, to July 13, 2022, while supplies last (exact dates may vary depending on newsstand). Important Notice: You may be charged for visiting the mobile website in accordance with the terms of your service agreement with your carrier. One (1) Winner will receive one (1) rocking chair set from Polywood (polywood.com). ARV: \$595. Odds of winning will depend upon the total number of eligible entries received. Open to the legal residents of the 50 United States and the District of Columbia, who have reached the age of majority in their state or territory of residence at time of entry. Void in Puerto Rico and where prohibited by law. Sweepstakes subject to complete official rules available at countryliving.com/sweeps.



psst...

Last month, the horseshoe was tucked away on pg. 12.

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Everyday Heirlooms

An Indelible Mark

A colorful collection of **quirky souvenir pens** serves as a reminder to enjoy the journey.

This column is a collaboration with Shana Novak of The Heirloomist (theheirloomist.com). Turn to pg. 106 to find out how you can participate.



THESE WATER PENS, often referred to as “floaty pens,” belonged to my dad, Joseph, who passed away two years ago. He wasn’t very sentimental, but his pen collection had a special spot in his closet.

My dad was a graphic designer, but he also served in the Marines as a radio repairman. I think the combination of those passions drew him to the pens—the mechanical way they move and the pictorial illustrations featured inside the water chambers.

Many of these pens are from family vacations. We went to Buckingham Palace to see the Changing of the Guard and tried (and failed) to make the guards laugh, as everyone does. I never gave that

memory a thought until I held the London pen in my hand. Some pens are from trips Dad took on his own—I know the Alaska pen is from a fishing trip he took with friends later in life—but a few of the pens are a mystery to me. I don’t recall him ever going to Wyoming, for example. But now that he has passed, it’s a comfort to imagine the fun he had in all of these places. The pens are a tangible representation of my dad’s full, rich life.

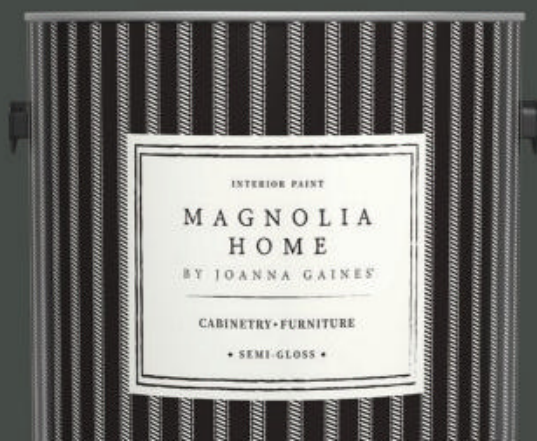
—Joanna Saltz, Editorial Director of House Beautiful and Delish (as told to writer and photographer Shana Novak)



*“The fastest way to transform
a room is through color.”*

- Joanna Gaines

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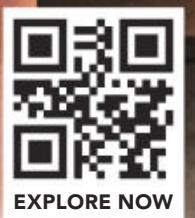




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